

More victims report sex assaults to military

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

Nearly 20,000 troops were sexually assaulted last year, according to estimates based on an anonymous survey released Thursday, a decrease from 26,000 in 2012, when the Pentagon last conducted the survey, but virtually

identical to the 2010 estimate.

At the same time, the percentage of victims who reported crimes increased from 11 percent in 2012 to 24 percent in 2014, according to the report.

While the Department of Defense believes the results show "substantive, comprehensive progress" in combating the crime, critics of the military justice system called the numbers "appalling."

Every two years, the military conducts an anonymous workplace- and gender-relations survey of thousands of active and reserve troops, asking how many have been sexually assaulted in

the previous year. The percentage of respondents who say they have experienced unwanted sexual contact is then applied to the total number of troops in the military, creating the estimate of how many troops have been sexually assaulted.

Additionally, the Pentagon releases data each spring about the sexual assaults that have been reported to law enforcement and commanders.

There is always a significant gap between the number of sexual assaults estimated to have occurred and the number reported.

SEE SURVEY ON PAGE 4



PROTESTERS FLOOD NEW YORK STREETS

No indictment in chokehold death sparks demonstrations | Page 11

Protesters gather at Times Square on Wednesday following the announcement that the New York City police officer involved in the chokehold death of Eric Garner would not be indicted — a case that drew comparisons to the deadly police shooting in Ferguson, Mo.

JULIO CORTIZ/AP

MILITARY

House fast-tracks DOD budget with benefit cuts, money for war strategy

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US forces assured immunity in Iraq, ambassador says

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Next Bond film gets retro title: 'SPECTRE' » Page 18

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you wander off into China," we were told, "you will be shot."

— Associated Press reporter Eric Talmadge, on a warning he and a companion photographer received while traveling on a road in North Korea to places not previously visited by foreign journalists

See story on Page 12

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MILITARY

US troops could depart Liberia soon

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — About the end of the year, most of the nearly 3,000 American troops deployed in Liberia to fight an Ebola epidemic will finish their work and will be ready either to start returning home or to go assist another country, the top U.S. general for Africa operations said Wednesday.

So far, AFRICOM commander Gen. David Rodriguez told reporters at the Pentagon, home appears to be the more likely destination.

The lead U.S. agency for the response to Ebola, the U.S. Agency for International Development, has indicated troops probably won't be needed in Sierra Leone or Guinea, two other nations that

are part of Operation United Assistance.

"Right now, USAID does not think we'll have to do that, but they're continuing to monitor that very closely," Rodriguez said.

The bulk of the troops are doing engineering work in Liberia, but a downturn in the infection rate there caused the number of treatment centers they were expected to build to drop from 17 to 10. Most will be only half as big as originally planned. Civilian agen-



Rodriguez

cies are increasingly able to take on logistical work, he said.

Should the USAID decide U.S. troops are needed in the other nations, which are enduring somewhat smaller Ebola outbreaks than the one that struck Liberia, Rodriguez said the deployment wouldn't rival the size of the current one in Liberia.

More than 6,000 people have died of Ebola infection in the three countries, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Rodriguez also said that in about 30 days the military would review whether the current policy requiring a 21-day quarantine for troops returning from West Africa is still necessary. Several groups of returning servicemen-

bers have either entered or passed through the quarantine process, and there have been no reported exposures to the disease.

"It'll be about confidence and ensuring the people who have had minimum risk or no risk [of exposure] to the disease, if they're able to do it without [quarantines,]" he said.

With the downturn in cases, Operation United Assistance may come to a close sooner than he had previously estimated in October, when he said it could last a year, Rodriguez said.

"Right now, I'd probably say it could be a little less than that," he said.

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High costs threaten vets' access to hepatitis C drug

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A new drug holds the potential to cure hepatitis C in tens of thousands of veterans but will require billions of dollars in new spending to cover the cost, Department of Veterans Affairs officials told a Senate panel Wednesday.

The department has requested \$1.3 billion from Congress to buy Sovaldi, a drug approved last year for the treatment of the potentially deadly liver disease. But the money will buy treatment for only about 30,000 infected vets, while as many as 114,000 might need it, said David Ross, director of the VA's HIV, hepatitis C and public health pathogens programs.

Sovaldi requires a shorter treatment period and has fewer side effects and a higher cure rate than previously existing maintenance treatments that are long and painful and sometimes require liver transplants. Providing it to all the veterans at the current price of more than \$500 per pill could cost the VA another \$2.6 billion.

The VA has cut its cost for the drug in half through negotiations with the company that owns Sovaldi, Gilead Sciences Inc., but is still asking for more than \$1 billion in new funding to begin treatments, said Michael Valentino, pharmacist and chief consul-

tant to the VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services.

For now, the department is shifting money to provide Sovaldi to vets who request it, he said.

Veterans, especially those from the Vietnam War, are infected with hepatitis C at a higher rate than the rest of the population. Research suggests that many contracted the virus before it was recognized through blood transfusions and other medical care; other factors are intravenous drug use common during the war, the fact that the VA generally serves a lower socioeconomic class, and that transfusions were saving lives on the battlefield in great number for the first time.

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee called the hearing after the chairman, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., saw the high-dollar request from the VA earlier this year. In July, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, asked Gilead to explain why the high U.S. price — \$1,000 per pill — differs from that in other countries as well as from a previous U.S. estimate.

Sanders criticized Gilead for the prices and reaping large profits while veterans face possible rationing due to the expense, calling it a moral issue. According to the senator, Gilead bought the original company that developed

Sovaldi for \$11 billion and stands to make about \$200 billion on the drug.

"What we are looking at is very clearly an excessive profit and a lot of that profit is going to be paid by the taxpayers in this country," Sanders said.

Gilead Sciences declined to testify. Gilead spokeswoman Michele Rest told Stars and Stripes that the drug is worth the expense because it simplifies and shortens treatment to just eight weeks and can help patients avoid the cost of treating liver disease.

It offers a "cure at a price that will reduce hepatitis C treatment costs in the short-term and deliver significant healthcare savings to the healthcare system over the long-term," Rest wrote in an email response.

The ranking Republican on the Senate committee stood up for the pricing.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said companies such as Gilead take large financial risks and navigate a testing-and-approval "valley of death" when developing new drugs.

"Innovation is expensive ... I think the one thing we agree on is we don't want to give up innovation," Burr said.

Instead of attacking prices, he said Congress and the VA should look at how much could be saved

in the long-term by treating veterans known to have hepatitis C.

"I believe the price of this particular drug should be looked at on the macro level," Burr said.

Still, it remains unclear how the VA will deal with the high costs of treatment. Valentino said the department expects more new hepatitis C drugs to be released this month and next year, which could provide veterans alternatives to Sovaldi.

But new competitor drugs are not always cheaper once they hit the market, and the VA will likely be forced to ration what it can afford, said Robert Weissman, the president of the Washington-based consumer rights advocacy group Public Citizen.

"We are still going to be stuck with a super-high price because the starting price was so high," Weissman told the Senate.

The high costs of Sovaldi and other new drugs soon to be released will likely become unsustainable for the VA and other government health care programs, said John Rother, president and chief executive officer of the National Coalition on Health Care, a nonprofit, nonpartisan group that advocates for affordable health care.

"Sovaldi is just the canary in the coal mine when we look at what is coming at us," he said.

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WAR/MILITARY



PHOTOS BY RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghanistan's first amusement park is City Park in Kabul, where lines form behind the barbed-wire security fence outside the park.

Park gives kids relief from Afghan miseries

By RAHIM FAIEZ
The Associated Press

Excitement builds in the queue forming behind the barbed-wire security fence outside Afghanistan's first amusement park as children in bright clothes clutch their parents' hands and hop from foot to foot in anticipation of the pleasures waiting behind the high concrete blast walls.

For the thousands of families who have

visited Kabul's City Park since it opened during a national religious holiday weekend in October, it is a rare escape from lives blighted by war, death and misery.

Squealing children hardly know where to look as they race through the gates. Inside, they find large friendly characters that look almost, but not quite, like Minnie Mouse and Tom the cat from Tom and Jerry — all dancing together and dispensing hugs.

Traditional fairground rides — including a Ferris wheel and bumper cars — attract the older kids, while a carousel, face painting and games keep younger children happy.

"It's very nice. Everything is very beautiful. The carousel horse ride is nice," Sadaf, 6, said through a gap-toothed grin as she had her face decorated like a mouse.

Set at the foot of the snow-capped Hindu Kush mountains, next to the filthy Kabul River and near a zoo famous only for its abused, one-eyed lion, City Park is one of the few places residents of the Afghan capital can take their children for a relaxing day out.

The city of almost 6 million people is a virtual fortress. Major build-



Children enjoy a carousel ride at City Park in Kabul.

ings are protected by concrete and barbed wire, and roads are choked with traffic as former thoroughfares are blocked to prevent suicide bombers reaching potential targets like the Presidential Palace. Gun-toting security forces guard almost every street corner.

Afghanistan has been at war for more than 30 years, and while U.S. and NATO combat troops prepare to leave this month, the Taliban insurgency shows no sign of abating.

Few families in Kabul have been untouched by the violence, said Almas Qaseemi, the park's deputy general manager.

"The park is a place for entertainment, and there is not much of that in Afghanistan," Qaseemi said. "We have a great feeling when we see our people forget their sorrows for a few minutes and smile when they come here."

Thousands come every day, he said, peaking on the weekly Friday holiday at

close to 10,000.

The park is set on 24 acres of land owned by the Kabul Municipal Government and leased for five years to a private company called Mufkora — which means "concept" in English.

Rahela Kohistani, the municipality's cultural director, said \$1.5 million has been invested in the park, with the municipal authority taking 26 percent of profits and the rest going to Mufkora.

"So far we are happy, and it seems that people are happy, too," she said.

For Ishfaq Ahmad Adeb, 20, who spends his days at City Park as Tom the cat, and Omid, 18, who plays Minnie Mouse, the children's joy rubs off.

"When the children see me in this outfit, they really believe that Minnie Mouse has come to Kabul," Omid said. "They laugh and try to shake hands with me; they really enjoy it."



Sadaf, 6, gets his face painted at Afghanistan's amusement park.

MILITARY

Survey: Some data in report are a 'red flag,' senator says

FROM FRONT PAGE

In 2012, when 26,000 troops were estimated to have been sexually assaulted based on the anonymous survey results, just 3,374 had reported.

The number of reported sexual assaults increased dramatically to 5,061 — up 50 percent — in 2013, then increased by 8 percent in 2014.

Previous anonymous surveys have been administered by the DOD, but this year's survey was conducted by the Rand Corp., which used the formerly used questionnaire for a random sample of troops, and a redesigned survey for other troops. The Rand study estimated about 20,000 victims of sexual assault, while the estimate based on the previous methodology was 19,000.

Rand experts said the survey was designed to address criticism of the DOD's earlier surveys. Among other things, researchers said, it utilized a larger sample size, simplified wording of key questions and made a distinction in its measures between instances the military classifies as crimes and those classified as workplace equal opportunity violations.

The spiking number of sexual assaults grabbed the attention of several lawmakers, who in the past two years have been debating how best to deal with the crimes and to prevent more in the future.

Several reforms championed by Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., took effect a year ago, and after seeing initial accounts of the report, she issued a statement saying the combination of increased reporting and decreased assaults was "exactly the combination we're looking for."

"I'm sure there's more work to do, and I'm anxious to hear how victims feel about the services and support offered to them when they report an assault," McCaskill said.

But Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who this week renewed a push to remove the authority to prosecute sexual assault and other serious crimes from the victim's chain of command, said some of the numbers should be a "screaming red flag."

"For a year now, we have heard how the reforms in the previous defense bill were going to protect victims and make retaliation a crime," she said. Instead, 62 percent of people who said they reported sexual assaults also said

they were retaliated against for speaking up, Gillibrand said — the same number as last year.

Gillibrand said the numbers illustrate why the number of victims who report crimes remains low, and called the prevalence of sexual assault and unwanted sexual contact in the military "appalling."

There is no other mission in the world for our military where this much failure would be allowed," she said. "Enough is enough. Last December, the president said he would give the military and previous reforms a year to work and it is clear they have failed in their mission."

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel did order several new training and assault-prevention measures in a memo that accompanied the report.

A new, installation-centered study will "customize" sexual assault-prevention measures at a number of bases to determine which policies and procedures are most effective, Hagel said.

"This effort will identify installation and community risk factors for sexual assault and develop associated actions leadership can take to mitigate sexual violence," he wrote in the memo. A plan for the study is due on Jan. 30.

Hagel also ordered "first-line" supervisors throughout the DOD to undergo training in the responsibility of bosses in sexual assault prevention and response programs. The new training applies to all junior officers, junior enlisted supervisors and civilian employees that supervise military members.

Hagel also ordered new procedures for installation commanders to prevent reprisals and retaliation for reports of sexual assault, and ordered service branch secretaries to publicize the report findings "in an interactive manner."

Hagel said the report showed the DOD is having some success in fighting sexual assault but that more effort is needed.

"While our report to the president demonstrates progress, as we all know, our work is not complete," he wrote in the memo. "We must remain persistent and relentless in our efforts to eradicate sexual assault from the military."

For the complete report, a fact sheet and the defense secretary's recommendations, go to stripes.com. Stars and Stripes reporter Chris Carroll contributed to this report. hagel.jennifer@stripes.com

Navy revokes honorary title given to Cosby

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy is revoking Bill Cosby's title of honorary chief petty officer, saying allegations of sexual abuse made during the comedian are serious and conflict with the Navy's core values.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus and Master Chief Petty Officer Michael Stevens made the

announcement Thursday in a statement.

Cosby enlisted in the Navy in 1956 and served four years as a hospital corpsman before being honorably discharged in 1960 as a petty officer third class. The honorary title was presented to Cosby in 2011.

Cosby, 77, has refused to answer questions about mounting accusations that he sexually abused several women.

From The Associated Press



JAMES KIMBER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS Wyoming surfaces in the Atlantic Ocean in June 2012.

Allegation: Female officers recorded in shower on sub

By DAN LAMOTHE

The Washington Post

The Navy is investigating reports that some of the first women ever assigned to a Navy submarine were secretly recorded on video while showering, a Navy official said.

The incidents allegedly occurred on the USS Wyoming, an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine that is based in Kings Bay, Ga. The Navy first learned of the allegations last month and launched an investigation along with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the official said.

Navy Lt. Leslie Hubbell, a service spokeswoman, declined to specify what happened, citing the ongoing investigation. The Navy was notified of possible criminal behavior aboard the Wyoming,

she said. Another Navy official confirmed it involves allegations that women were recorded on the Wyoming in various states of undress.

"If the allegations prove to be factual, the Navy will ensure individuals involved are held accountable for their actions," Hubbell said.

The investigation, first reported by the independent Navy Times, centers on a 24-year-old enlisted sailor on the submarine. The videos are believed to show at least three female officers while showering or undressing, and had been recorded over more than a year, Navy Times reported, citing a source who had spoken to one of the reputed victims.

The allegation is a troubling development in the integration of

women into new jobs in the military. Female officers were first assigned to submarines in late 2011, with the Wyoming among the first involved. In addition to the Wyoming, women now serve on at least six other submarines. Enlisted female sailors are still not allowed to do so, but the service is aiming to integrate them by 2020.

Women are expected to be integrated on fast-attack submarines for the first time in January, when female officers are assigned to the USS Virginia and USS Minnesota. Since the Navy lifted a prohibition on women serving on submarines in April 2010, at least 43 women have done so, service officials said in October.

Obama to announce DOD chief pick Friday

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama plans to announce his pick to lead the Pentagon on Friday.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest would not say who

Obama has selected. Administration officials have said former Pentagon official Ashton Carter is expected to replace Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

Hagel resigned last month under pressure from the president. He is staying on until his successor is confirmed.

From The Associated Press

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MILITARY

Hawaii-based unit to head to S. Korea on 9-month mission

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A Hawaii-based brigade is heading to South Korea on a nine-month rotational deployment, part of the Army's increasing use of deploying intact units to the peninsula rather than individual troops on one- or two-year tours.

The 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade has been training for the upcoming deployment with a brigadewide field exercise at multiple locations on Oahu and Hawaii's Big Island.

Officials have not said when the 2-6 Cavalry will arrive, where its troops will be stationed or how many soldiers will be part of the deployment, though 8th Army spokesman Col. Shawn Stroud said the unit will be attached to the 2nd Infantry Division as part of the standard rotational deployment.

"This is just part of the Army's rotational concept," he said Thursday.

Other units that have come to South Korea on rotational deployments include the 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., to Camp Humphreys and the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, both from Fort Hood, Texas, to Camps Stanley and Hovey.

The Pentagon announced last month that the 21D's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team will be deactivated in June 2015

and will be replaced by Fort Hood's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, which is coming to the peninsula on a rotational deployment.

Supporters say the use of rotational forces means more stability and less turnover within units during their deployments.

U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti last week said the "prudent deployment of additive and rotational forces to Korea" in the past year has "enhanced the alliance's readiness posture and reinforced the U.S. commitment to the Republic of Korea."

According to the 25th ID, the brigade's preparation for the deployment has included water gunnery training, engaging mechanized enemy forces, conducting convoy operations and relocating 95 pieces of equipment from one side of Oahu to the other. Soldiers participated in live-fire exercises and set up mobile gas stations on the Big Island.

"We had the ability to train at several different locations in Hawaii over water and land, in a similar operations environment that we encounter in Korea," Maj. Mark Fulmer, operations officer in charge, was quoted as saying in a news release. "Our ability to react here allows us to go out and do the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief throughout the Pacific in support of U.S. Army Pacific," he said. "In Korea, we will be able to do the same operations tactically."

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Envoy: US troops to have immunity in Iraq

By VIVIAN SALAMA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Washington has an agreement with Baghdad on privileges and immunities for the growing number of troops based in Iraq who are helping in the fight against the Islamic State group, the new U.S. ambassador said Thursday.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Stuart Jones said Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has given assurances that U.S. troops will receive immunity from prosecution. Under Iraq's former prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, that issue was a major sticking point, ultimately leading to the decision to withdraw all remaining U.S. troops in late 2011.

"That was a different situation and those troops would have had a different role," Jones said.

"We have the assurances that we need from the government of Iraq on privileges and immunities," he said. "It's in the basis of our formal written communications between our governments and also based on the strategic framework agreement that is the legal basis of our partnership."

The House was expected to vote Thursday on a proposed \$5 billion expansion of U.S. military operations against the Islamic State group in Iraq, part of a broader

\$585 billion defense policy bill for Iraq and Syria. Last month, Obama authorized the deployment of up to 1,500 more American troops to bolster Iraqi forces, which could more than double the total number of U.S. forces to 3,100. That's in addition to the 5,000 people working for the U.S. mission in Iraq.

Meanwhile, a series of car bomb attacks at a group of restaurants and a market on Thursday killed 21 people in Baghdad, Iraqi officials said.

The U.S.-trained and -equipped Iraqi military has struggled to recover from its collapse in June, when the Islamic State captured the country's second-largest city, Mosul, and swept over much of northern and western Iraq. Iraqi commanders fled, pleas for more ammunition went unanswered, and in some cases soldiers stripped off their uniforms and ran. The U.S. began launching airstrikes in Iraq on Aug. 8, and now heads a coalition backing Iraqi and Kurdish ground forces from the air.

U.S. advise-and-assist teams, which were based in Baghdad and the Kurdish regional capital Irbil, are now fanning out to other locations in the country, including the highly volatile Anbar province in western Iraq, where U.S. troops fought some of the heaviest battles of the eight-year conflict.

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MILITARY

House approves DOD budget that trims benefits, raises

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday passed a defense budget that cuts troop benefits and clears the way for the Obama administration to continue its war strategy against the Islamic State, despite bipartisan outcry over a lack of debate.

The last-minute budget compromise reduces military pay raises, housing allowances, prescription medicine coverage, and commissary funding next year, while providing \$63.7 billion for overseas wars and permission for continued arming and training of Syrian rebel groups.

The Senate is expected to vote next week on the massive 2015 budget bill, which was cobbed together during weeks of negotiations after the Senate failed to pass its version of a defense budget.

The military "is going to have to live with a dramatically smaller amount of money than they thought they would have," said Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee.

He said the cuts do not go far enough and more are likely in the coming years.

The military is faced with a shrinking budget as sequestration forces caps on spending. Top brass came to Capitol Hill earlier this year lobbying for a wide range of cuts to personnel and equipment, warning that their ability to fight wars depends on reining in the

ballooning expenses.

"We rejected pretty much all of them," Smith said. "In 2016 and 2017, we are going to have to make some choices."

Those that were approved in the budget bill faced little opposition Thursday.

"I remain concerned that these provisions send the wrong signal to our warriors and those who have sacrificed so much to protect our country," said Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., one of the few lawmakers who did mention the benefits on the House floor Thursday.

The bill, which passed 300-119, approves a 1 percent White House cap on troop pay raises, down from 1.8 percent increases. It opts for a variety of other cuts next year while leaving the door open for multi-year reductions requested by the Pentagon:

■ Basic housing allowances will go from covering 100 percent to 99 percent of costs, while the military hopes to eventually bring that down to 95 percent.

■ Tricare pharmacy copays will cost troops \$3 more, which could still be on track to meet the Pentagon goal of requiring \$30 more out of pocket for prescription medicine within a decade.

■ The \$1.3 billion budget for base commissaries around the world will be reduced by \$100 million. Brass wants a total of \$900 million in reductions.

To get the bill approved Thursday, the House barred amendments and limited debate.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle were rankled by the quick action and especially the lack of debate over the war in Iraq and Syria, which the Obama administration has waged since August under a congressional authorization from 2002. The White House and lawmakers have called for an updated war authorization in recent weeks, though there has been little movement on legislation.

"We are talking about a defense bill but we are not allowed to have a debate or vote on any of these wars we are involved in," Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., said.

Along with increased funding for Iraq operations, it allows the administration to continue with a strategy of training and arming moderate rebel groups fighting the Syrian civil war in hopes they can be a proxy ground force against the Islamic State.

Congress was skeptical of the plan this fall, saying it did not have enough information from the White House, but passed a temporary measure to allow it to continue until Dec. 11 before leaving for midterm elections.

Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, said lawmakers were voting again to approve the training and arming of rebels for up to two years without a clear understanding of the program. He blamed the Senate for not passing a defense budget and putting pressure on both

What's in the bill?

Here are some key points in the annual defense budget being considered by Congress:

PAY RAISES — Troops will see a pay increase of 1 percent as proposed by the White House instead of the 1.8 percent indexed to private-sector growth, which some in Congress had hoped to preserve.

HOUSING — Increases in basic allowance housing will be slowed; troops will begin paying 1 percent of the cost out of pocket beginning next year. The military hopes to reduce the payments in coming years so servicemembers pay 5 percent of their housing costs.



◀ **A-10** — Lawmakers bent to supporters of the A-10 Thunderbolt by blocking an Air Force proposal to retire it. But the bill still allows the Pentagon to reduce maintenance costs by flying the aircraft less.

TRICARE — Beneficiaries will pay \$3 more out of pocket for prescription

medications next year. A major overhaul of the military insurer was not approved.

TOBACCO — The military is prohibited from banning tobacco sales on its bases. The provision was sponsored over the summer by Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., a Marine veteran, as the Pentagon called for review of the sales.

COMMISSARY — Base supermarkets around the world get a \$100-million cut to their current \$1.4 billion budget. The military proposed reducing by twice that much next year and reducing the supermarkets' budget to \$400 million over three years. ▶



SYRIA — The Obama administration will be allowed to continue with its plan to train and equip moderate Syrian rebels to fight the Islamic State group. Lawmakers were skeptical of the strategy but say they are now satisfied with the details of the operations.

PURPLE HEART — Victims of the 2009 Fort Hood shootings will be eligible to receive Purple Hearts and combat injury benefits. Pentagon officials for years have said the shooting victims are not eligible for the Purple Heart and certain combat-injury compensation.

SOURCE: The Carl Levin and Howard R. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015

Stars and Stripes

chambers to hastily pass a bill in the last days of the session.

"The problem is we are debating this without any real discus-

sion," Sessions said, "because our friends on the other side of this building are not willing to engage us on the issue."

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MILITARY

Congress docks pensions of senior brass

By TOM VANDEN BROOK
USA Today

WASHINGTON — Pensions for generals and admirals will be trimmed to ensure that they make no more in retirement than they earned while in uniform under an agreement on Pentagon spending for 2015 reached by Senate and House negotiators.

The agreement on the National Defense Authorization Act reverses a decision made in 2007 to modify pensions for three- and four-star generals and admirals in an effort to retain them as the wars raged in Iraq and Afghanistan. It boosted the pensions of some senior officers by 63 percent. USA Today first reported on the modification in 2012 when the Pentagon's highest pension pay-

ment, of \$272,892 per year, went to a retired four-star officer with 43 years of experience.

A January 2014 report by USA Today showed the Pentagon had no plans to reduce senior officers' pensions although a December 2013 budget agreement called for lower pension rates for other military retirees.

There was no indication that beefing up pensions had increased retention of top officers, nor any sign that the Pentagon had been losing brass over retirement pay, the Senate Armed Services Committee determined. Pensions were reduced to ensure that top brass share the burden of Pentagon cost-cutting.

"Three- and four-star generals and admirals should not earn

'It's only fair that the NDAA makes senior flag officers forgo a special bonus.'

Ethan Rosenkranz

National security policy analyst at the Project on Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog group

more in retirement than they did on active duty," said Ethan Rosenkranz, national security policy analyst at the Project on Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog group. "The House and Senate made the right move to revoke this special pension bonus for senior flag officers."

The change, also agreed to by the House Armed Services Committee, is part of an effort to rein

in military personnel costs. In all, the committees agreed to authorize \$134.7 billion for military personnel, including costs of pay, allowances, bonuses and death benefits. Troops at the rank of colonel and Navy captain and below will receive a 1 percent pay raise, while salaries for generals and admirals will be frozen. It also reduces housing allowances for troops and increases copayments for some drugs.

"Our military families are being asked to share the pain of deficit reduction through a constrained pay increase, a reduction in housing benefits, and an increase in pharmaceutical copays," Rosenkranz said. "It's only fair that the NDAA makes senior flag officers forgo a special bonus."

New pensions for three- and four-star officers will be capped at top active-duty pay of \$181,501 at the end of the month, although pensions for currently serving officers will be grandfathered. Housing and other allowances can increase the compensation paid to officers by about one-third.

The change is estimated to save about \$23 million over nine years.

Guam officials laud push to fund Marines' move to Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Officials in Guam applauded an agreement made Tuesday by the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to partially unfreeze funding for military construction related to the move of 5,000 Okinawa-based Marines and their families to the western Pacific territory.

The bill would set a cap on the move at approximately \$8.7 billion and would restrict the development of public infrastructure on Guam pending further study, according to a copy of the bill. Japan's Yomiuri Shimbun reported that Japan will pay \$3.1 billion of that amount.

The plan has been in limbo for more than three years since it was left unfunded by lawmakers concerned about costs and logistics. Despite Tuesday's deal between the chamber committees, it must survive floor votes in the House and the Senate and must be signed into law by President Barack Obama.

"We see this as a very positive step in the right direction," said Mark Calvo, director of the Government of Guam Military Buildup Office.

A spokeswoman for U.S. Forces Japan referred inquiries to the Pacific Command, which was unavailable for comment. Okinawa Gov.-elect Takeshi Onaga could not be reached and Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine declined to comment. Onaga is scheduled to assume office Wednesday.

Calvo, who is a veteran and distant cousin of Guam. Eddie Calvo, said only one major hurdle remains before construction can really begin: An economic adjustment committee must report to Congress on the impacts

the move will have on Guam's services, what Guam requires to sustain the move, and budget lines to fund and to mitigate the impacts of the move. He believed the report would be completed by March or April.

"We're working very diligently with members of the EAC to produce this report accurately and provide it to Congress," he said. "The people [of Guam] are happy."

'We see this as a very positive step in the right direction.'

Mark Calvo
director of the
Government of
Guam Military
Buildup Office

The move is scheduled to take place in the next decade as part of the realignment of forces in the Pacific region and is seen as a respite for the island of Okinawa, which is home to more than half of U.S. forces in Japan.

The progress of relocating Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Camp Schwab in the northern portion of Okinawa is not tied to the move of Marines to Guam, Calvo said. That issue has been a source of contention recently on Okinawa after construction began in August to install a new runway in the bay as part of the move. The anti-base Onaga was elected last month by 100,000 votes on a platform of stopping the move. Marine Corps officials have said they remain committed to the plan.

The Yomiuri Shimbun reported that Japan already has contributed more than \$965 million for the Marines' move to Guam.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report. burke.matt@starsandstripes.com

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PACIFIC

Historian searches for WWII evidence

Remains of Japanese plane, crew might lie on Hawaii golf course

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A local historian is convinced he's located the site where a two-man Japanese dive-bomber crew crashed on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, and was buried nearby: the tony grounds of Hoakalei Country Club Golf Course in Ewa Beach.

"The responsible thing to do is at least make an attempt to find these guys," said John Bond, a semi-retired Ewa resident who has labored for years to bring recognition to the largely forgotten Marine Corps Air Station Ewa and its role in the 1941 battle. "If they can't find them, then put up a marker saying this is a crash site and remember that so-and-so was killed here. I don't understand why that would be a problem."

But the golf course's owner, Haseko Development, has been less than receptive to the idea of an active search for the grave on the property, which the company announced in October was being sold to a Japanese firm. Haseko Vice President Sharené Saito Tam said the company has done all it was required to do in identifying culturally and archaeologically significant artifacts on the property during development and has found no evidence of such a grave. Further, she said, Bond does not have documentation that pinpoints the gravesite's exact location.

As to placing a marker on the grounds, she said: "From the company's point of view, if there was evidence that showed that to be the case, of course it would be considered, but at this point there is nothing like that. But to ask any landowner to put a marker that indicates a grave where you don't know a grave exists does not seem appropriate or respectful of the people



Left: An aerial photo shows Ewa Beach, Hawaii, in May 1942, with the circle indicating the Dec. 7, 1941, crash sites of two planes, one American and one Japanese. Right: A Google satellite image shows the same area, now Hoakalei Country Club Golf Course.



Courtesy of the U.S. National Archives; Google satellite image



Courtesy of the U.S. National Archives

Army photographer Lee Embree snapped this photo of the crash site of a Japanese dive bomber while he was aboard a B17 on the morning of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Hawaii.

they are trying to name there."

Of the roughly 60 Japanese troops who were killed or lost during the Dec. 7 attack, many were buried in various cemeteries on Oahu but were repatriated after the war. About 30 Japanese remain missing from that day.

One notable memorial to a Japanese airman stands in Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay on Oahu. A bronze plaque marks the spot where Lt. Fusata Iita, commander of the 3rd Aircraft Group of the Japanese Imperial Navy, crashed his plane on a hillside near Kansas Tower that morning. Iita's body was long ago returned to Japan.

The defense attache with the Japan consulate in Honolulu said the case of the two Ewa airmen is "a difficult situation" for Japan because the site is private property and the owner says there's no evidence to back up Bond's assertion.

During the past few years, Bond and a group of historians specializing in the 1941 attack have gathered extensive documentation and photos about the crash site, which had been lost to time and land development.

Even Tom Dye, the archaeologist contracted by Haseko to monitor its land development, admitted that Bond and his colleagues have "done an incredible amount of work" in tracking down photos and accounts of the crash.

"They've found much more than I think anybody could have expected about this crash event," Dye said. "But there's just nothing yet that gets us a location that we could narrow things down and really make a concerted effort to look for a burial."

Comparing old photographs and military reports from the time of the attack, Bond said he has calculated the crash site lies

within a 50-yard radius of the golf course's club house.

A Dec. 9, 1941, report by Capt. Lester Milz, with the 251st Coastal Artillery, noted that the badly burned bodies of two Japanese crewmen had been found and his men disposed of the remains. Two days a later, an Army staff officer visited Milz's battery and wrote in his diary that he'd been told the airmen's bodies had been buried in a "coral grave."

"I knew they buried them in a sinkhole because that's what we have out here," Bond said of Ewa Plain, which is an ancient limestone field. "You don't dig easily in this ground. It's like concrete."

Bond contends that burying bodies beside crash sites was common in that era.

"If you had a crash and couldn't extract the people out, you just buried them by the plane," he said.

Dye said that even if the exact crash site is pinpointed, there's no direct evidence indicating where the bodies were buried.

"You really just have to guess at that point," Dye said. "Mr. Bond perhaps is comfortable with guessing, but you're not supposed to guess. We really don't have any credible evidence to lead us to a place where we could productively search for remains of the two airmen."

Bond suggested that ground-penetrating sonar could be used to detect the grave.

"GPR has highly evolved in the last few years," he said. "They've used it on archaeological sites to find tombs. It will detect these sinkholes. It's also used in old cemeteries."

However, he said that limestone subsurface is "a nightmare scenario for ground-penetrating sonar."

The problem you have with ground-penetrating radar is there are just a huge number of false

positives," Dye said. "You'd have to dig every single one of them up to find out what they were. It's not specific enough to tell you, oh, that's bone versus that's a rock or that's a root."

Bond has written a request to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, which is tasked with locating and retrieving the remains of U.S. servicemembers lost overseas, requesting that it take an active role in searching for the grave.

"Getting involved in another nation's recovery event is not something we'd typically do unless it was in the course of one of our own investigations," JPAC spokesman Lee Tucker said. The agency has in the past provided research assistance to the Japan Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, Social Welfare and War Victims Bureau, which oversees such recoveries.

Tucker said the Japanese government did not require JPAC's assistance or approval in searching for remains in Hawaii.

But Takeshi Ogino, the defense attache at the Japan consulate in Honolulu, said Japan did not have a comparable agency such as JPAC to research and retrieve MIA remains in foreign countries. He said the consulate had not received an "official request" from either Bond or the Haseko group in regard to searching for the airmen's grave or commemorating the crash site.

Haseko's Tam said that if Bond produces "additional information and evidence that we can authenticate," the company might consider further search.

But Bond contends that the time to actively search and recover the remains is now, as the 73rd anniversary of the attack nears.

"If a decent search was done there could be found," he said.

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Budget path could lead to benefits punch in '16

By TOM PHILPOTT

Military folks will see compensation packages pinched in 2015 under a deal struck this week by House and Senate negotiators finalizing pay and benefit changes in the fiscal 2015 defense authorization bill.

But the compensation pinch in 2015 could become a more hurtful punch starting in 2016, the armed services committees warn, if the new Congress fails to roll back defense spending cuts of \$50 billion a year still mandated by the Budget Control Act and its "sequestration" cutting tool.

As expected, the Jan. 1 military pay raise will be capped for a second straight year at 1 percent, versus 1.8 percent, to keep pace with private sector wage growth. But House negotiators have persuaded senators to soften provisions for dampening stateside housing allowances and for raising beneficiary co-pays on drug prescriptions that are not filled on base.

More dramatic, multiyear increases in drug co-pays embraced in May by the Senate committee have been replaced by a standalone \$3 increase for non-active duty beneficiaries filling prescriptions at retail outlets or through the TRICARE mail order program.

The co-pay increases take effect as soon as the bill is signed but TRICARE likely won't be ready to implement before Feb. 1. At retail outlets, military fam-

ily members and retirees would pay \$8 instead of \$5 for generic drugs and \$20 versus \$17 for brand name drugs on the military formulary. Non-active duty beneficiaries using home delivery would pay \$16 instead of \$13 for a three-month supply of brand name drugs on the formulary, and \$46 rather than \$43 for non-formulary brand names.

Since March, TRICARE has required older beneficiaries, for at least one year, to get nongeneric maintenance drugs filled by mail or on base. The new defense bill would make the pilot program permanent, not just for the elderly but for all non-active duty beneficiaries needing medicine for chronic conditions. Also, brand name drugs not on the formulary would be available only by mail order, effective Oct. 1, 2015.

The House-Senate deal also softens a plan to cap Basic Allowance for Housing increases over three years until servicemembers living off base pay 5 percent of average rental costs out of pocket. The compromise would pare BAH rate increases in 2015 by 1 percent. BAH rate protection will shield current recipients from the change until they move to their next stateside assignment.

In a "joint explanatory statement" on the compromises reached, the House-Senate conferees warn that heftier compensation savings sought by the

MILITARY UPDATE

Joint Chiefs will be revisited after the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commissions delivers its recommendations in February, particularly if planned defense budget cuts are not eased.

"If sequestration-level budgets remain in effect for fiscal 2016 and beyond, [the Defense Department] will need to make painful cuts and achieve substantial savings across its entire budget [to] avoid an unacceptable reduction in readiness," the statement says. "The Chiefs have urged us to take all action necessary, including compensation adjustments, to avoid such readiness impacts."

The conferees also clarify that their deal on BAH and drug co-pays for Congress to achieve most of the savings" sought by the chiefs in pharmacy co-pays through 2024 and also "full savings" they sought in housing allowances if needed to protect readiness.

The Congressional Budget Office told conferees the Joint Chiefs' more aggressive plan on drug co-pays, which the Senate committee had approved, would have cut personnel costs by \$13.2 billion over a decade. Those 10-

year savings are \$2.3 billion under the compromise, leaving almost \$1.1 billion in added savings their committees will eye again next year.

CBO also estimated that the deal lowered savings in BAH over 10 years from \$9.8 billion to \$2.1 billion. Again, that will be \$7.7 billion in potential savings that will be needed if the new Congress fails to ease sequestration.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the armed services committee chairman retiring next month, issued a statement with ranking Republican James M. Inhofe, of Oklahoma, that if sequestration survives deeper compensation curbs will be needed "to avoid drastic reductions in military readiness."

Rep. Harold "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., the House committee chairman who also is retiring, won praise from military associations for blunting the compensation curbs senators had endorsed. But the committee's top member, Rep. Adam Smith, of Washington state, suggested a false victory. It was Congress that forced sequestration on the military, he said, yet it refuses "to help the department deal with the consequences of that idiotic policy."

Days before the defense bill deal was struck, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, told a Washington defense forum that readiness is falling to the lowest point he has seen in 40 years of service. He blamed it on defense budgets being squeezed

between mindless sequestration and lawmakers' refusal to curb manpower costs.

Last February the chief had unveiled a plan to save \$11 billion in compensation over the next five years through a series of military pay caps, by ending TRICARE Prime, the military's managed care benefit, by sharply raising various TRICARE fees and by slashing commissary funding over three years by more than two-thirds, which would devalue shopper discount.

"But we're not getting any of them," Dempsey complained.

The defense bill, which the House and Senate hope to pass by mid-December, allowing no floor debate or amendments, contains scores of other personnel provisions. Two are relevant to the Joint Chiefs' pursuit of compensation reforms.

One will block a Jan. 1 pay raise for flag and general officers. The second accepts half of the \$200 million first-year cut to commissary funding sought by the chiefs. It was the House committee that backed the \$100 million hit to the Defense Commissary Agency after DeCA signaled it could absorb the cut without affecting shopper savings or services. But a resale industry official said cuts to commissary staff or store hours are still likely.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

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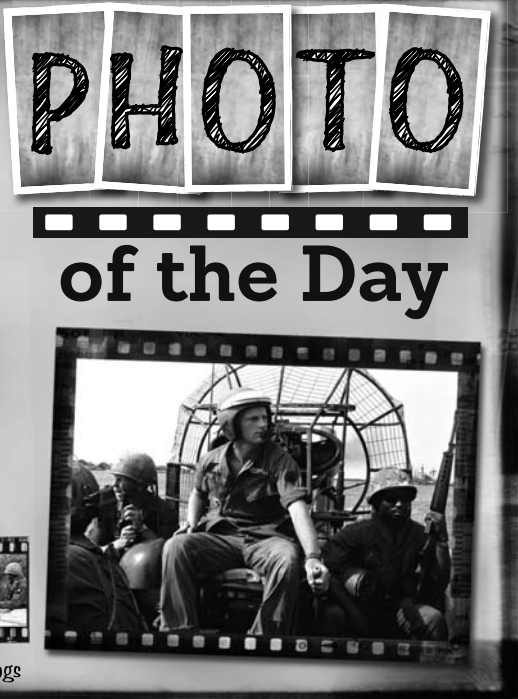
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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY MEREDITH TIBBETTS/Stars and Stripes

First Lady Michelle Obama talks with children during an event that honored military families at the White House on Wednesday.

First lady welcomes military children

By MEREDITH TIBBETTS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Military families were welcomed into the White House on Wednesday to be among the first to view the holiday decorations and help the first lady decorate cookies.

Children gathered in the State Dining Room with Michelle Obama to glaze gingerbread men and meet the White House dogs, Sunny and Bo. Some of the kids seemed just as excited about meeting the dogs as decorating cookies.

The first lady gave a few remarks to kick off the event in the East Room, which was decorated with five Christmas trees, garland and more.

"The holidays are a chance for us to show what our country is grateful for this holiday season, and that's really all of you, the military families who serve our country proudly and give us all so much," she said.

In the Blue Room, the official White House tree stands 18 feet



Above: A girl decorates a cookie during the event that honored military families. Below: A gold star with the name of 1st Lt. Robert Kelly — a Marine who was killed in action on Nov. 9, 2010 — hangs on the Gold Star Tree in the White House.



tall and nearly 12 feet wide. It is decorated in honor of the men and women in uniform. Decorations on the tree are patriotic and covered in ribbons. Children contributed cards that thanks military families.

Also among the 26 trees in the White House is the Gold Star tree. It is decorated with gold stars that have the names of someone killed in action. Only people who have had a loved one killed can add a star to the tree. Blank gold stars are on a table near the tree for visitors to fill out.

"No matter what you all have been going through, this is the thing that really keeps me going: You guys always, always step up," Obama told the military families. "So many of you are the ones who are doing all the volunteering, more so than average Americans."

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Plans for Naples evacuation revised

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Italian officials are outlining the boundaries of a new evacuation zone in an area of Naples popular with U.S. Navy personnel, the result of growing concern in recent years over the threat of a massive sunken volcano.

Proposed last month by civil protection officials in the Campania region, which includes Naples, the new zone would extend from the western edge of Naples across the region known as Campi Flegrei, which overlies a 60-square-mile sunken volcano known as a caldera. It would update boundaries from 2001 and more closely resemble a zone established in 1995 around nearby Mount Vesuvius that required communities to coordinate with regional and national officials on evacuation plans.

The Navy base command in Naples banned new leases in the Vesuvius red zone in 2012, although it allowed those living there at the time to remain. Base officials said they are following discussions about the Campi Flegrei red zone, where more than 500 Navy families lease housing, but will wait until the policy is finalized before deciding whether the base needs to respond.

"We're not speculating at this point, but we're monitoring," said Sean Quinn, base emergency management officer. "We're looking forward to seeing what the result is."

Formed 60,000 years ago, when a volcano collapsed into an empty magma chamber after eruption, the caldera is now a wide basin straddling the coast of the Gulf of Pozzuoli. Its landscape is marked by several active volcanic vents and an arc of large, extinct craters. The Navy's recreation facility, Carney Park, is inside one of the craters, Monte Gauro.

Volcanologists in Naples have elevated their warnings about the caldera in recent years, saying eruption through several vents could send ash and hot rock miles outside the eruption site. Extension of the original red zone was prompted partly by archaeological evidence showing that past eruptions have dumped material well outside the current zone.

More than 500,000 people live in the Campi Flegrei area. More than 3 million people live in the Naples area.

Community leaders, volcanologists and civil-protection officials met on Oct. 20 to discuss the new boundaries. Communities were asked to submit their comments or concerns by Nov. 30, and many are now drawing up evacuation plans required under the new initiative.

The new boundaries extend the evacuation zone to the north, into the towns of Quarto, Marano and Giugliano, and east into several



STEVEN BEARDSLEY/Stars and Stripes

Carney Park, the Navy's recreation facility near Naples, Italy, is inside an extinct volcanic crater in the city of Pozzuoli.

Naples neighborhoods, including Vomero, Chiaia, Posillipo and Arenella. The zone already covered the towns of Pozzuoli, Bacoli and Monte di Procida.

Cities throughout the zone will be required to submit detailed evacuation plans in the coming year, including evacuation departure points for public transportation.

About \$18.5 million in funding from the European Union will be distributed among the towns of the red zone to help meet their plans.

Alfonso Trincone, an official with the Campi Flegrei city of Pozzuoli, said the new zone follows a growing recognition of the caldera's potential threat. But he said there were no immediate concerns about the area's safety.

"There is no emergency; there is no danger," he said. "There is nothing at the moment that Americans should be concerned about."

Scientists in the area monitor three volcanoes — the caldera, Vesuvius and Mount Epomeo, on the island of Ischia — for signs of activity.

Vesuvius is the best-known of the three, with several well-documented eruptions in its history, among them the one that buried Pompeii in A.D. 79. Its last eruption, in 1944, was witnessed by Allied troops who had recently entered Naples.

The Navy abandoned its original base in the Campi Flegrei town of Agnano in 2005, partly because of damage caused by the tremors. It now maintains bases at the Capodichino airport, north of Naples and in Grisciano d'Avversa, much farther north.

Questions about the adequacy of evacuation plans in the area have plagued regional officials for years. They were forced to expand the Vesuvius red zone earlier this year after scientists challenged the assumptions behind prior boundaries, pointing to evidence that an eruption could affect a wider area than thought.

The Navy base has its own evacuation plans, according to Quinn, the emergency management official. He did not say whether they were updated to include a Campi Flegrei eruption.

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NATION

Inmate says drugs, sex, money fuel corruption in jail

By JULIE LINDERMAN
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The leader of a violent gang that controlled life inside one of America's most notorious jails testified that he directed guards motivated by sex and money to smuggle in drugs and cellphones and to facilitate attacks on inmates who challenged his authority.

Tavon "Bulldog" White described a culture of corruption inside the centuries-old Baltimore City Detention Center, led by a gang that has its own language, laws and authorities. The Black Guerrilla Family's hierarchy includes a "minister of education" who quizzes members on gang literature and a "minister of finance" who manages the profits sent by cellphones from behind bars.

The gang's smuggling schemes even fund the bail that frees gang members who can't pay to get sprung from jail, he testified this week.

Gang leaders, not guards, are the ultimate authority inside the jail, he said.

"We're about to go into a strange place, an upside-down world where inmates ran the

prison and correctional officers took directions from the gang leader," prosecutor Robert Harding told jurors in opening statements, and White didn't disappoint, describing a gang-run economy made possible by official corruption.

White was once the government's primary target, but has since become the prosecutors' most valuable asset, providing information that led to a 160-count indictment against 44 people. Now he's testifying against the few who didn't plead guilty: five corrections officers, one kitchen worker and two inmates on trial in federal court in Baltimore.

White, who imprisoned four of the guards while in the jail on an attempted murder charge, said he never forced a guard to participate.

"I didn't have to," White said. "I had my children's mothers, and plenty of other guards willing to do it for money."

The vast majority of the Baltimore jail's guards are women.

One guard who had a child with White had "Tavon" tattooed on her wrist. Another who had two of his children tattooed "Tavon" on her neck.

Michael Brown's stepfather apologizes for comments

The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — The stepfather of Michael Brown has apologized for angry comments he made after the grand jury decided not to indict the police officer who killed his stepson, but said his remarks had nothing to do with the arson and looting that ravaged Ferguson and the surrounding area.

Louis Head said Wednesday in a statement that he was full of emotion on the night of Nov. 24, when he yelled "Burn this bitch down!" in a crowd of protesters.

St. Louis County police said Tuesday they are investigating Head's comments as part of a

broader inquiry into the arson, vandalism and looting. Twelve commercial buildings were destroyed in the hours after the grand jury decision.

Head does not have a listed phone number, and there was no answer when an Associated Press reporter knocked at his listed address Wednesday.

Brown, 18, was shot and killed by Ferguson officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9.

Wilson, who is white, told the grand jury he fired because his life was in danger, but some witnesses said Brown, who was black and unarmed, was trying to surrender.

Adrian Horta said he was able to drive his SUV alongside one car and pull a man and woman out through the driver's side window.

A swift water rescue crew rescued the remaining people.

No injuries were reported. Roads around the flooded area are closed.

A weakening Pacific storm has brought days of rain to drought-stricken California, triggering some freeway flooding and likely opening sinkholes but not producing major damage.

From The Associated Press



JASON DECROW/AP

Protesters rallying against a grand jury's decision not to indict the police officer involved in the death of Eric Garner march early Thursday across the eastbound traffic lanes of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York.

Protests erupt in wake of chokehold death decision

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Protests erupted in New York and other U.S. cities after a white police officer was cleared in the chokehold death of an unarmed black man — a case that drew comparisons to the deadly police shooting in Ferguson, Mo.

Eric Garner died as officers were attempting to arrest him for selling untaxed cigarettes on the street. The controversy once again has cast a spotlight on police tensions with blacks, even as the nation's president and top law enforcement official are both black.

Unlike the Missouri case, where the circumstances surrounding Michael Brown's death remain in dispute, Garner's July 17 arrest was captured on videotape. The Garner case could have even wider repercussions, particularly because it happened in the nation's most prominent city and one with a liberal tradition.

New York City police said Thursday that 83 people were arrested, most for disorderly conduct.

The decision Wednesday by the Staten Island grand jury not to indict Officer Daniel Panta-

leo heightened tensions that have simmered in the city since Garner's death.

In the neighborhood where Garner died, people reacted with angry disbelief and chanted, "I can't breathe!" and "Hands up — don't choke!"

In Manhattan, demonstrators laid down in Grand Central Terminal, walked through traffic on the West Side Highway and blocked the Brooklyn Bridge.

A City Council member cried. Hundreds converged on the heavily secured area around the annual Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting with a combination of professional-looking signs and hand-scratched placards reading, "Black lives matter" and "Fellow white people, wake up."

"This fight ain't over, it just begun," said Garner's widow, Esau.

The demonstrations were largely peaceful, in contrast to the widespread arson and looting that accompanied the decision nine days earlier not to indict the white officer who shot and killed Brown, an unarmed, black 18-year-old.

Attorney General Eric Holder said federal prosecutors would

conduct their own investigation of Garner's death. The New York Police Department also is conducting an internal probe that could lead to administrative charges against Pantaleo, who remains on desk duty.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama said Wednesday evening that the grand jury decision underscores the need to strengthen the trust and accountability between communities and law enforcement.

In his first public comments on the death, Pantaleo said he prays for Garner's family and hopes they accept his condolences.

Police union officials and Pantaleo's lawyer argued that the officer used a takedown move taught by the police department, not a banned maneuver, because Garner was resisting arrest. They said his poor health was the main reason he died.

Staten Island District Attorney Daniel Donovan said the grand jury found "no reasonable cause" to bring charges. The grand jury could have considered a range of charges, from murder to a lesser offense such as reckless endangerment.

14 people rescued from flash flood in California

LOS ANGELES — Authorities said 14 people were rescued after their cars became stranded in a flash flood in a Southern California community during the third straight day of rain.

KABC-TV reports five vehicles got stuck shortly after 1 a.m. Thursday as several feet of mud and water roared over a rural road near Gilman Hot Springs in Riverside County.

California Highway Patrol Sgt.

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WORLD

A black and white photograph of a wooden signpost in a field. The signpost is made of vertical wooden planks and features a large, dark exclamation point cutout in the center. The background shows a field of tall grass or reeds under a cloudy sky.

A road rarely taken

Seeking to promote investment, tourism, North Korea allows two US journalists to embark on a trip — with restrictions — to the country's spiritual summit

By ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

WHEN North Korea opens its doors, it does so for a reason. So it was when the authoritarian government granted permission for a road trip so extensive that few North Koreans — let alone a pair of American journalists — could imagine taking it.

We drove 2,150 kilometers (1,336 miles) in a country that has barely 25,000 kilometers of road, and only 724 kilometers of those paved. By the time we returned to the capital a week later, our Chinese-made Great Wall SUV had a few new scratches and one less hubcap.

Our official destination was majestic Mount Paektu, with its jagged peaks surrounding a crystal-blue crater lake. North Korea is pursuing a plan to create dozens of special foreign investment and tourism zones, and this is one of the places it most wants to promote.

The easiest way to get there is to fly, but we had been granted permission to drive. This, we were told, would mean traveling through places that no foreign journalists had been allowed to see before.

Still, the trip was on North Korea's terms.

An exclamation point punctuates a long propaganda slogan in a field in North Korea's North Hamgyong province. The Associated Press was granted permission to embark on a weeklong road trip across North Korea to the country's spiritual summit, Mount Paektu.

DAVID GUTTENFELDER/AP

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

WORLD



PHOTOS BY DAVID GUTTENFELDER/AP

A man takes shelter in the rain next to propaganda billboards in the town of Samjiyon in North Korea's Ryanggang province on June 17.

FROM PAGE 12

Even on the loneliest of lonely highways, we would never be without a "minder," whose job was to monitor and supervise our activities. We were not to take photographs of any checkpoints or military installations, or talk to people we happened to see along the way. For the most part, we were not to detour from our pre-approved route, which, to no one's surprise, didn't include nuclear facilities or prison camps.

Though we would not get to know the people along the way, the country itself had a great deal to say. And no place is more symbolic of the North Korean psyche than Mount Paektu.

North Koreans venerate it for its natural beauty, but more importantly because it is considered the home of the North Korean revolution. It is dotted by reconstructions of "secret camps," where guides dressed in period costume recount the legends of Kim Il Sung's battles against Japanese imperialists.

Before we left Pyongyang, the capital, we were warned, half-jokingly, not to get lost. Mount Paektu straddles North Korea's border with China.

"If you wander off into China," we were told, "you will be shot."

Something similar had, in fact, happened many years ago. No borders were involved, but a South Korean housewife who strayed off the accepted path at a tourist site was fatally shot in the back by a North Korean guard.



A man sits by a cooking fire he built to roast potatoes and chicken in Samjiyon.

Nothing so dramatic had happened as we made our way across the country to the mountain.

Wrested out of our beds for our ascent up to the summit after four days on the road, we fumbled without lights to pack our equipment, made our way down our hotel's candlelit staircase and climbed into our car in the pouring rain. With no signs to guide him, our driver steered silently into the night.

Many people have been amazed by nighttime satellite images that show North Korea as dark as the ocean, set against a northeast Asia brimming with light. There is nothing in the world like ex-



Farmers walk in a rainstorm with their cattle near Hyesan in Ryanggang province on June 16.

periencing that darkness on the ground over long stretches of the North Korean back country. Possibly more than any other populated place on the globe, North Korea is terra incognita.

As we drove toward the dawn, two armed soldiers emerged from the darkness, signaled for us to stop and for our minder to get out. The rain was coming down harder as they stood in the blurry pool of our headlights.

One peered in at us through the rain-dotted window. There was a good deal of gesticulating. Then some head nodding. Our minder got back in the car.

We had gotten lost, but we weren't in China. We were going the wrong way down a one-lane, one-way road.

The soldiers waved us on. With North Korean tourism still in its infancy, we were safe. We wouldn't see another car until we reached the snowy, wind-whipped parking lot below the crater, where two small vans full of shivering Chinese waited for a guard to wake up and lead them to Lake Chon.



North Korean men share a picnic lunch and North Korean-brewed and -bottled Taedonggang beer along the road in North Hwanghae province. An AP reporter and photographer weren't allowed to interview people during their weeklong drive through the country.

WORLD

Gunbattles mar calm in Chechnya

By MUSA SADULAYEV
The Associated Press

GROZNY, Russia — Security forces in the capital of Russia's North Caucasus republic of Chechnya stormed two buildings, including a school, in fierce gunbattles with militants early Thursday that left at least 19 dead, authorities said.

The fighting, which punctured the patina of stability ensured by years of heavy-handed rule by the Kremlin-appointed leader, erupted just hours before Russian President Vladimir Putin was to give his annual state of the nation address in Moscow.

In his address, Putin said he was confident that local Chechen forces were capable of dealing with the "rebels," who he suggested were receiving support from abroad.

The National Anti-Terrorist Committee said militants traveling in three cars entered the republic's capital, Grozny, at 1 a.m., killing three traffic police at a checkpoint, and then occupied the 10-story Press House in the center of the city.

The federal agency said six gunmen were killed inside the building, which was gutted in a blazing fire that spread to a nearby market. More gunmen were later found in a nearby school and security forces were sent to "liquidate" them, the agency said.

No students or teachers were in the school when it was seized by the militants, RIA Novosti quoted vice principal Islam Dzhabrailov as saying.

Russian state television showed video footage of security officers firing automatic weapons and grenade launchers at the three-story school, its windows left shattered and charred.

Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, who traveled to Moscow for Putin's address in the Kremlin, told journalists afterward that the security operation was completed and his forces had killed at least nine militants.

The National Anti-Terrorist Committee said 10 officers were killed and 28 wounded in the fight against the militants, who it said were from a known group operating in the North Caucasus.

Kadyrov said the militants



MUSA SADULAYEV/AP

Shells and a burned police car litter an empty square Thursday outside a burned-out publishing house in central Grozny, Russia. A gunbattle broke out early Thursday in Chechnya, hours before Russian President Vladimir Putin's annual state of the nation address in Moscow.

were connected to Doku Umarov, a Chechen and longtime leader of Islamic militants in the North Caucasus who died last year.

Although unrest is common across the largely Muslim region in southern Russia, forceful security measures adopted by Kadyrov spared Grozny significant

violence for several years.

The relative calm has allowed Putin to claim success in subduing the Islamic insurgency in Chechnya after years of war.

The Kavkaz Center website, a mouthpiece for Islamic militant groups operating in the North Caucasus, carried a link to a video

message by an individual claiming responsibility for the attacks. The man in the video claimed to be operating under orders from Chechen Islamist leader Aslan Byutukayev, known to his followers as Emir Khamzat.

The video could not immediately be verified.

Philippines girds for major storm

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Villagers in the central Philippines fled coastal homes and sparked panic-buying in grocery stores and gas stations as an approaching powerful storm brought back nightmares of last year's deadly onslaught from Typhoon Haiyan.

Government forecasters said Typhoon Hagupit was packing sustained winds of 127 miles per hour and gusts of up to 149 mph over the Pacific, about 435 miles off the country's eastern coast. It may hit Eastern Samar province on Saturday and barrel inland along the same route where Haiyan leveled villages and left more than 7,300 dead and missing in November last year.

Haiyan survivor Emily Sagales, 23, said many of her still-edgy neighbors in central Tacloban city, which was ravaged by Haiyan, packed their clothes and fled to a sports stadium and safer homes of relatives. Long lines formed at grocery stores and

gas stations as residents stocked up on basic goods, she said.

"The trauma has returned," Sagales said.

In the wake of last year's typhoon, which killed her mother-in-law and washed away her home, she gave birth to her first child, a baby girl, in a crowded makeshift clinic filled with the injured and the dying near the Tacloban airport. "It's worse now because I didn't have a baby to worry about last year," she said.

Haiyan demolished about 1 million houses and displaced about 4 million people in the central Philippines. Hundreds of residents still living in tents in Tacloban have been prioritized in an ongoing evacuation.

Hotels in Tacloban, a city of more than 200,000 people still struggling to recover from last year's massive damage, were running out of rooms as wealthier families booked ahead for the weekend.

"The sun is still shining but people are obviously scared. Almost all of



AP

Residents queue up to buy groceries Thursday in Tacloban city, Philippines, in anticipation of approaching Typhoon Hagupit.

our rooms have been booked," said Roan Florendo, of the hilltop Leyte Park hotel, which lies near San Pedro Bay in Tacloban.

The government put the military on full alert, workers opened evacuation centers and transported food packs, medicines and body bags to far-flung villages, which could be cut off by heavy rains.

which monitors militant sites.

The video mimicked those used by al-Qaida rivals from the Islamic State Group, which has beheaded several American and British hostages. The Islamic State fighters have battled al-Qaida and prompted defections.

From The Associated Press

Emirate police make arrest in teacher's death

The Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — The United Arab Emirates' interior minister said Thursday that police have arrested a female suspect in the stabbing death of an American schoolteacher in the country's capital and revealed that the attacker also planted a bomb outside the home of another American.

Interior Minister Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan said the makeshift bomb was left at the house of an American doctor and that police dismantled it after it was discovered by one of the physician's sons.

Word of the gruesome killing in a public restroom at a mall in Abu Dhabi has rattled the Emirates, a Western-allied, seven-state Gulf federation that includes the glitzy commercial hub of Dubai. It is home to a large foreign-born population, who far outnumber Emirati citizens.

Police say the teacher was stabbed to death by a butcher's knife-wielding attacker wearing the full black veil commonly worn by women throughout the Gulf Arab region.

Footprints Recruiting, a Vancouver, British Columbia-based teacher recruitment company that found a job for the victim, identified her as Ibohya Ryan.

"We await the results of the ongoing police investigation before making conclusions about why this senseless tragedy occurred," the company said. "We are confident that the UAE in general and Abu Dhabi in particular remains a safe environment in which to live and work."

Police earlier said the victim had 11-year-old twins and that they were being kept in protective custody until their father, who is the victim's ex-husband, arrived in the country.

American hostage in Yemen threatened

SANAA, Yemen — Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen threatened an American hostage kidnapped more than a year ago, giving Washington three days to meet unspecified de-

mands and denouncing U.S. actions in the Arabian Peninsula country in a new video released Thursday.

The hostage, identified as Luke Somers, 33, an American photojournalist born in Britain, is featured in the video, posted on the al-Qaida offshoot's Twitter account and first reported by SITE Intelligence Group,



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FAITH

By LILLY FOWLER
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The first time the public heard the name Renita Lamkin in the same sentence as Ferguson, Mo., was probably the day she was shot.

In early August, four days after Michael Brown was killed by Officer Darren Wilson, Lamkin, a pastor, stood with Ferguson protesters, attempting to mediate. Police had warned the crowd to disperse and in an effort to buy a little time, Lamkin shouted, "They're leaving!"

"That's when I felt a pop in the stomach," Lamkin says now of the rubber pellet that hit her. The pellet left a ghastly wound — large, deep and purplish — and created a social media frenzy. Tweet after tweet showed Lamkin, 44, with short, light-brown hair and a wide smile. She wore a T-shirt with an image of a cross that she lifted up just slightly to show off the ugly bruise. In the coming days, critics said police had already managed to shoot a white Christian lady.

Lamkin says she didn't really have a plan when she ventured out to Ferguson but that "the whole being shot thing was probably the best thing that could have happened." The injury had cemented Lamkin in the struggle for racial equality.

"They say, 'You took a bullet for us.' I have no sense of taking a bullet for someone. My sense is that I'm in the struggle. I'm in it." She says in this together, and I was playing my role," Lamkin said.

Fast forward a few months and Lamkin continues to deliver the same message of defiance as pastor of an African Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Charles. The AME denomination is a religious movement born out of the resistance to slavery with about 2.5 million members, most of them black.

"We can boldly resist those who try to silence us. We can and should be defiant," Lamkin told her congregation on a recent Sunday at St. John AME Church. "There will always be those who discount the voice of the poor." But "we don't have to accept the conditions of this world."

Although Lamkin is mother to two black children, her role as a white leader in the African Methodist Episcopal Church is unusual. "She's a rare breed of person to be both white and female in an overwhelming black denomination where the ministry is overwhelming male," said Michael Joseph Brown, academic dean at Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio. Brown said Lamkin, who graduated from Payne in 2014, was the only white person in her graduating class.

Dennis C. Dickerson, a history professor at Vanderbilt University who taught Lamkin, said the "social protest and social insurgency" ethos that's "baked into the church's DNA" clearly appealed to her.

While the church's philosophy informs her work in Ferguson, Lamkin acknowledges that the experiences her children had growing up in St. Louis also influence her decision to continue to be actively engaged in the protests.

"My kids would be suspended for things that other kids would just have a detention for," Lamkin said when describing the treatment of blacks in schools. "It's the education system. It's the job situation. Lack of resources. It's painting all these kids as if they're these gangsters who are out killing everybody."

Lamkin said she's outraged by what she sees as unnecessary police brutality, even in cases where the victim may have been guilty of certain crimes. "Does that require a death sentence? And how did the police on the street get to be judge, jury and executioner?"

Lamkin was sitting next to her mother in the front seat of the family's car when on a rainy day in 1975 a pickup truck slammed into them. Her mother died in the wreck. Lamkin was just 4. Lamkin said she and her three siblings were reared by their grandmother, though she was already in her 60s and clearly done parenting, resorting sometimes to both physical and verbal abuse.

Still, Lamkin said that from an early age she read the Bible three or four times

a year and could rattle off scripture on command.

"First person I led to Christ, I was like 8 or 10 or something," said Lamkin, who grew up in the Pentecostal church in Kansas City. "I was out knocking on doors after church asking people if they knew Jesus Christ."

As a child, Lamkin said, she even ran a Bible school in the yard. "I made my brother bring his friends," Lamkin said with a laugh. "I went, rounded them up, and beat them up and made them come."

But Lamkin's involvement with religion was not always so playful. She said she was sexually abused by a youth pastor, as well as a cousin. She was also severely mistreated by the father of her children. The two met in high school and were together for seven years. Lamkin said she knew she had to leave him on the day that he threatened her with a gun and accidentally shot himself instead. "That is when I said to God, 'You got to get me out of here; one of us is going to die,'" Lamkin said. "I'm either going to kill him trying to stay alive, or he's going to kill me."

Lamkin's escape route was a secret post office box. There she collected the checks the state sent her as reimbursement for the meals she served at her home day care. When she had enough money to put down

a payment for a rental property, she and an old high school girlfriend loaded up a car with everything they could and left.

Because she grew up in a faith that wasn't particularly friendly to female leaders, Lamkin said, she expected to be a missionary or a pastor's wife. Yet because of her knowledge of scripture, Lamkin was repeatedly invited to preach. She said her fate was sealed when in Bible study she met a woman pastor in the AME church.

"I talk too much, you know. I get on people's nerves, I'm abrasive, so my personality — sometimes it takes a little bit to warm up to," Lamkin said. But "people trust me with their stories and trust me to speak from God's heart to theirs, and I don't take that trust lightly."

Lamkin said the simple act of arresting Wilson would have sent a badly needed message.

"Even if it didn't go anywhere, the arrest itself would say that we are making a shift and that there is accountability. It would be a start," Lamkin said. "The way things are now, police are protected, and they can act on their opinion and be protected."

"If you're so afraid of the people that you are serving, then you need to stop serving those people."

"They can't, Lamkin said, "shoot first and figure it out later."



Pastor Renita Lamkin, far right, joins the choir in song at St. Johns AME Church on Oct. 26 in St. Charles, Mo. "[P]eople trust me with their stories and trust me to speak from God's heart to theirs, and I don't take that trust lightly," she said.

On Ferguson's front lines Pastor paves her own way



PHOTOS BY J.B. FORBES, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/MCT

Lamkin, second from right, joins the protesters who confronted Missouri Highway Patrol Col. Ron Johnson in Ferguson, Mo., in August.

WORLD



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER/AP

A human skeleton found beneath a car park in Leicester, England, in 2012, has been declared "beyond reasonable doubt" to be the remains of England's King Richard III, missing for 500 years.

No bones about it: Remains are royal

By MARIA CHENG
The Associated Press

LONDON — Scientists say there is "overwhelming evidence" that a skeleton found under a parking lot is that of England's King Richard III, but their DNA testing also has raised questions about the nobility of some of his royal successors.

The bones of the 15th-century king were dug up in the city of Leicester in 2012, and experts have published initial data suggesting they belong to Richard, including an analysis of his curved spine and the injuries that killed him.

Richard was the last English monarch to die on a battlefield, in 1485.

In the new study — probably the oldest forensic case ever solved — scientists compared DNA from the skeleton with that of living relatives and analyzed DNA data identifying eye and hair color, which they matched to the earliest known portrait of the king.

"The probability that this is Richard is 99.999 percent," said Turi King, a geneticist at the University of Leicester who led the research. When she and colleagues

compared the skeleton's DNA obtained from the ground-up powder of one tooth and a leg bone to samples provided by a 14th cousin on Richard's maternal side, they found a perfect match.

Based on the skeleton's DNA, King and colleagues hypothesized Richard had blue eyes and blond hair in childhood, which darkened with age. With no contemporary paintings of the king available, they compared their findings with the earliest known painting of him, which depicts the monarch with light brown hair and blue eyes, painted about 25 years after his death.

The research was published Tuesday in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Scientists also compared the skeleton's DNA with samples from living relatives on Richard's father's side. They found no match, a discovery that could throw the nobility of some royals into question.

While researchers weren't able to say where on the family tree the adultery occurred, they said the findings potentially raise questions about the legitimacy of Henry V, Henry VI and the entire Tudor dynasty, including Henry



A portrait of King Richard III.

VIII and Elizabeth I.

Still, Kevin Schurer, pro vice chancellor of the University of Leicester and another study author, said claims to the throne are based on more than simply having royal blood and also rest on other things such as battlefield victories and royal marriages.

He said England's current royal family — which has a line of descent from the House of Tudor — should not be worried. "We are not in any way indicating that Her Majesty (Elizabeth II) shouldn't be on the throne," Schurer said.

Researchers said it was the first time there was scientific evidence that questioned medieval lines of succession in the monarchy.

Boy, did that baby name spark debate

By ADAM TAYLOR
The Washington Post

In Britain, baby names became a big subject of debate last weekend when a new poll from the website BabyCentre appeared to show that Mohammed was now the most popular name for newborn boys in the country.

It seemed to show a significant change in the culture of a country where "British"-sounding names like Oliver and Jack had long dominated — and where a growing immigrant population is making an impact.

"Traditionally, Muhammad is often the name given to the first-born boy in Muslim families," Sarah Redshaw, managing editor of BabyCentre, explained to the Telegraph. "With the increase of other Arabic names plus Aarav, an Indian boys' name, the top 100 shows the ever-increasing diversity of the U.K. today."

Among a certain audience, this was difficult news. "They are only 4 percent of the population yet Mohammed is the most popular boys name in the UK," wrote one Twitter user. "England is lost already." The Daily Mail turned off its commenting system when they wrote about the finding.

This wasn't an unexpected result. The Muslim minority in the U.K. may be relatively small, but it is often the source of controversy. Some people appeared to be taking the rise of the baby name as a sign of a demographic shift. While British Muslims make up

less than 5 percent of the country at present, Pew has predicted that the population will reach more than 8 percent by 2030. Britain will almost certainly have a larger Muslim minority in the future.

Still, that projected number falls short of total domination of British life, and a number of British publications soon began to question the BabyCentre's numbers. The Guardian, for instance, pointed out that official statistics from the British government appeared to show that Mohammed was not the most popular name, and that instead, names like "Oliver," "Jack" and "Harry" dominated. Mohammed was the 15th-most popular boy's name in England and Wales and the 52nd-most popular in Scotland, the Guardian noted.

The Independent, in return, debunked their debunking. It argued that official British government statistics failed to distinguish between the many different transliterations of the Arabic word for Mohammed. And while you can make the argument that, in that case, Oliver and Ollie should be combined (which would, again, make it the most popular name), Islamic experts told the newspaper that wasn't a fair comparison.

Whatever side of that debate you fall on, it's worth realizing that Mohammed has an advantage in these figures. In Islamic culture, there is a relative small number of names to choose from, and the practice of naming your first child after the Islamic prophet is fairly widespread.

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Japan sends rocket to blow crater into asteroid

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A Japanese space explorer took off Wednesday on a six-year journey to blow a crater in a remote asteroid and bring back rock samples in hopes of gathering clues to the origin of Earth.

The explorer, named Hayabusa2, is expected to reach the asteroid in mid-2018, spend about 18 months studying it and return in late 2020.

A small device will separate from the explorer and shoot a projectile to blast open a crater

several feet in diameter. The explorer, which will hide behind the asteroid during the blast, will then try to collect material from inside the crater.

Asteroids can provide evidence not available on Earth about the birth of the solar system and its evolution. JAXA, Japan's space agency, said the research could help explain the origin of seawater and how the planet Earth was formed.

Hayabusa2 will attempt to expand on the work of Hayabusa, a previous explorer that returned in 2010 after collecting material

from the surface of another asteroid. By reaching inside an asteroid this time, the new explorer may recover material that is not as weathered by the space environment and heat.

The earlier mission was plagued by mechanical failures and other problems. JAXA hopes improvements since then will make this trip smoother.

Hayabusa2, which was launched from Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan, is a rectangular unit with two sets of solar panels sticking out from its sides.

FACES

Bond film gets retro name: 'SPECTRE'

By JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

James Bond is back, in a new film with a retro title that evokes the series' past. The next 007 adventure will be called "SPECTRE," the dastardly fictional terrorist organization featured in "Dr. No" and other early Bond films.

Director Sam Mendes announced the name of the 24th official Bond movie Thursday at Pinewood Studios near London, along with the identity of several new cast members and a new version of Bond's iconic Aston Martin car.

Academy Award-winning Austrian actor Christoph Waltz and professional wrestling star David Bautista are joining the cast, while Andrew Scott — master criminal Moriarty in the BBC series "Sherlock" — will play an MI6 officer. Monica Bellucci and Lea Seydoux are the new Bond girls, Lucia Sciarra and Madeleine Swann.

Mendes, who directed the last Bond installment, "Skyfall," said the movie would have "everything you would expect from a Bond movie," with "a little more variety ... maybe a little more mischief."

"SPECTRE" will be Daniel Craig's fourth film as the suave spy. Returning cast members include Ralph Fiennes as spy chief M; Ben Whishaw as gadget-master Q; and Naomi Harris as secretary Miss Moneypenny.

Producers said the next film centers on "a cryptic message from Bond's past (that) sends him on a trail to

uncover a sinister organization."

SPECTRE — Special Executive for Counterintelligence, Terrorism, Revenge and Extortion — was the terrorist organization headed by Ernst Blofeld that featured in several early Bond films.

Waltz said his character is called Oberhauser — but fans hope he is really Blofeld, one of the most enduring Bond villains. The cat-stroking evildoer, played by actors including Donald Pleasence and Charles Gray, hasn't appeared for several decades because of a legal dispute over rights to the character. The case was settled last year.

Mendes also revealed that Bond will drive an Aston Martin DB10, replacing the vintage DB5 destroyed in "Skyfall."

Initial fan reaction to the details was enthusiastic. "For Bond fans, this is the best Christmas present — the return of James Bond and classic elements of the series with yet another classic title coined by Ian Fleming," said Ajay Chowdhury of the James Bond International Fan Club. "SPECTRE" is due for release late next year.

Daniel Craig poses for photographers at the announcement for the new Bond film, at Pinewood Studios in London on Thursday.

JOEL RYAN, INVISION/AP

Chris Rock speaks out about essay, NY grand jury decision

From wire reports

At the premiere of his new film, "Top Five," Chris Rock addressed the controversy surrounding his recent essay in The Hollywood Reporter.

The 49-year-old star doesn't see it as a outrageous act; rather he was stating the facts about being black in the entertainment industry. In the essay, Rock questions how a "liberal town" like Hollywood is also "kind of racist" when it comes to hiring practices and diversity. He called Hollywood: "A white industry. Just as the NBA is a black industry."

Rock told The Associated Press on Wednesday night he was merely speaking from the heart. "I don't look at it as even being political. I'm just stating the facts. I'm not trying to be political at all; that's (Jon) Stewart, that's (Bill) Maher; that's, you know, not me," Rock said.

Rock also reacted to Wednesday's grand jury decision in New York not to indict a white police officer in the chokehold death of a black Staten Island man last summer. That altercation was captured on video with the suspect screaming, "I can't breathe."

"It's sad when something is on videotape. It's sad," Rock said.

Report says Americans streaming more TV

Americans are turning away from live TV on the tube and tuning in to streaming services, a Nielsen report says.

That's bad news for cable and satellite TV providers. Americans are increasingly watching TV shows and movies on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon streaming and other services. CBS and HBO have announced standalone streaming services as well.

About 45 percent of Americans stream television shows at least once a month, according to research firm eMarketer. That number is expected to increase to 53 percent or 175 million people by 2018, it says.

According to the Nielsen report, which came out Wednesday, the average daily time spent watching live TV fell 12 minutes in the third quarter to four hours and 32 minutes. That means it dropped nearly 4 percent to 141 hours per month. Meanwhile, time spent watching streaming services jumped 60 percent to

nearly 11 hours each month.

That's still a small amount compared with live TV, but it is growing quickly. "Content is still king, but consumers are shaping their own content-discovery experience, and the evolving media landscape has not lessened consumer demand for quality, professionally produced content," Donnia Turilli, senior vice president of insights at Nielsen, said in a statement. "What has changed is the number and reliability of new media available to viewers."

'Frozen' short film headed to theaters

"Frozen" favorites Anna, Elsa and Olaf are headed back to the big screen in a new short film.

Walt Disney Animation Studios announced Wednesday it plans to show "Frozen Fever" in front of the live-action "Cinderella" that opens in theaters March 13.

The short reunites the Oscar-winning directing team from "Frozen." Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck. It will tell the story of Elsa and Kristoff's attempt to plan a birthday party for Anna.

"Frozen" is the fifth-highest grossing film of all time.

AC/DC drummer scuffles with witness

Troubled AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd was detained by police after getting into a scuffle with a witness in his pending court case but was released again without facing further charges.

Rudd's lawyer Paul Mabey said Rudd appeared in court Thursday accused of breaching his bail conditions by associating with a witness. Mabey said it was a "chance meeting" and Rudd was released again on bail with no new charges.

Last month, police charged the 60-year-old drummer with threatening to kill, which comes with a maximum prison sentence of seven years, as well as possessing methamphetamine and marijuana. He has pleaded not guilty.

Columbus Coffee cafe owner Leo Rojas said Thursday that he witnessed Rudd curse and try to punch a larger man on the sidewalk outside the cafe.

Other news

■ Promoter Live Nation announced U2's "INNOCENCE +

eXPERIENCE" tour on Wednesday. Tickets go on sale on Dec. 8. The tour swings through North America next summer before heading to Europe in September 2015.

■ A Seattle-area medical examiner says actress Misty Upham, known for her roles in "August: Osage County" and "Django Unchained," died of blunt-force injuries to her head and torso. The King County medical examiner's office updated its investigation of the Oct. 5 death Wednesday, but the manner of death is still undetermined. The 32-year-old actress died in the Seattle suburb of Auburn.

■ Jimmy Fallon and his wife, Nancy, have welcomed their second child. A representative for the host of "The Tonight Show" said Frances Cole Fallon was born at 8:45 a.m. Wednesday, weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces.

■ After some sensitive prodding from radio host Howard Stern, Lady Gaga, now 28, said on his show Tuesday that she had been raped by a record producer 20 years her senior when she was 19 years old. She was explaining the inspiration for her song "Swine."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teen gets stuck in chimney, calls 911

AZ SCOTTSDALE — Firefighters spent an hour rescuing a scared Arizona teenager from a chimney where he got stuck after getting locked out of his home.

Firefighters from Scottsdale, Phoenix and Tempe fire departments were ultimately able to pull the 13-year-old boy to safety from inside the home Tuesday night.

The boy, whose name was not released, had tied an extension cord to a vent to climb down the chimney but he got stuck inside. Realizing he was trapped, he called 911.

Authorities later released a recording, with personal information redacted.

At one point, the boy said he couldn't believe he'd gotten stuck in the chimney.

"Yeah, it's going to be an interesting story to tell your friends," the operator responded.

Woman claims rings in Salvation Army kettle

SD SIOUX FALLS — A South Dakota woman has claimed the engagement ring and wedding band found in a Salvation Army red kettle.

Katie Christie, of Sioux Falls, was reunited with her lost jewelry Wednesday after the Salvation Army put out an alert Tuesday looking for the owner of the rings.

Christie took off the rings to apply hand lotion. She said she put them in her coin purse, but forgot they were there when she dumped change into the kettle.

Student told to unclog toilet with bare hands

WA OTHELLO — A Washington state teacher acknowledged ordering an 8-year-old student to unclog a toilet with his bare hands, and the boy's parents say the educator deserves more than a reprimand.

Artie and Lisa Adams told KEPR-TV that they learned of the Nov. 6 incident at Scooney Springs Elementary School when they asked their son about his day at school.

The third-grader said he reported the clog and teacher Brent Taylor told him to clear it with his bare hands.

The parents complained. The principal reprimanded Taylor and ordered the 23-year teaching veteran to review a hygiene course.

Man accused of posing as Army vet investigated

PA LEVITTOWN — Police said they are investigating whether a man accused of falsely posing as a U.S. Army ranger while shopping at a suburban Philadelphia mall broke the law.

Middletown Police Chief Joseph Bartorilla said Tuesday that the man didn't ask for a military discount at a shoe store he was exiting when a decorated Army veteran questioned him and captured it on video.

The video was created by Ryan Berk, who served in Afghanistan



Jeff Chiu/AP

Selfie therapy

Student Annie Tsai takes a photo of herself with a llama on the University of California Berkeley campus in Berkeley, Calif., on Tuesday. The llamas were brought on campus as part of the academic affairs mental health and wellness office to reduce stress for students before finals start.

and received a Purple Heart, had received a few million views on YouTube earlier this week.

Retired Col. Richard Nurnberg, of the National Infantry Association, said it's impossible the man won the three Combat Infantrymen Badges he was wearing.

9-point buck dispute settled with coin flip

WI ONEIDA — A dispute over a nine-point buck in Wisconsin was settled with a coin flip.

Wisconsin's deer season was just a couple hours old on Saturday when D.J. Jorgenson said his son, Kameron, 11, wounded the buck in the town of Oneida.

"Deer hit the ground, and it

came back up, and took off running," Jorgenson said.

The father and son then tracked the animal through the woods to a neighbor's property, Jorgenson told WLUK-TV. Before they could get to it, neighbor Randy Heyrman shot the buck twice from his deer stand to finish it off.

With the deer dead and the hunters deadlocked over who could keep it, they flipped a coin.

"My boy called tails, and it was heads. And (Heyrman) said, 'Well, it looks like it's my deer then,'" Jorgenson said.

All Kameron got was a photo.

Hunters need permission to follow a deer onto private property, and the landowner has a right to take the deer, according to Shad Webster, of the Oneida Conservation Department.

More Atari games from landfill put on eBay

NM ALAMOGORDO — Another batch of Atari game cartridges unearthed in a New Mexico landfill are going up for auction.

The Alamogordo Daily News said between 300 and 400 games uncovered in an Alamogordo dump in April are now open for bidding on eBay.

Joe Lewandowski, a consultant for the film companies that documented the dig, said the offerings include "Yars' Revenge," "Super Breakout" and "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial."

Lewandowski said 50 games at a time will be posted on eBay over the next couple of weeks.

He said there's no telling how

THE CENSUS

\$480

The amount Ebola survivor Amber Vinson wants the bridal store she shopped at in Akron, Ohio, to refund for her bridesmaids' dresses. Attorney Stephen Malouf said Vinson, who has recovered, saw the publicity of her case harm the store and decided to get bridesmaids' dresses elsewhere to avoid further scrutiny for the business. Anna Younker, owner of Coming Attractions Bridal & Formal, said the reimbursements aren't feasible after the store had to temporarily close and lost significant business. She called the refund request a slap in the face.



much money the games will bring in. He said he is still surprised an auction last month generated \$37,000.

Coyote hunts that offer prizes banned

CA California wildlife officials on Wednesday banned coyote hunting contests that have sparked a culture clash by offering cash and other prizes to marksmen who killed the most animals.

It was the first ban of its kind in the nation, according to Camilla Fox, executive director of Project Coyote.

The vote by the state Fish and Game Commission allows hunters to shoot as many of the predators as they wish year-round but stops the awarding of prizes.

Commissioner Jack Baylis said the state also needs to consider protecting responsible hunters and allowing ranchers to manage their livestock.

Missing tree-climbing sculpture recovered

OH DUBLIN — After a publicized search, a missing "tree-climbing man" sculpture has been returned to a central Ohio city.

The "man" is a valuable yellowish-orange sculpture of a life-size tree climber. It disappeared from its perch in a tree at a park in the Columbus suburb of Dublin a week ago.

The Columbus Dispatch reported the fiberglass sculpture was one of four installed in trees in Coffman Park in 2008, collectively known as "Exuvia." Officials think it might have been blown out of the tree by recent high winds. It's worth about \$9,000.

City spokeswoman Lindsay Weisenauer said the sculpture was found in another tree in Coffman Park late Tuesday.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

'Grand Theft Auto' pulled in Australia

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Target Australia is removing "Grand Theft Auto V" from store shelves after more than 40,000 people who say the video game encourages players to murder women for entertainment signed an online petition asking the retailer to stop selling it.

The decision is the latest in a long line of controversies sparked by the 17-year-old video game

series that casts players as car-stealing criminals.

A petition posted Nov. 29 on Change.org called for Target Australia to stop selling "GTA V" because it "makes a game of bashing, killing and horrific violence against women."

The latest installment in Rockstar Games' action-adventure series centers on a trio of bank robbers in Los Santos, a tongue-in-cheek rendition of Los Angeles. The open-world, third-person

game allows players to participate in a several optional virtual activities, including visiting strip clubs and hiring prostitutes, as well as playing tennis and riding a roller coaster.

"GTA V" originally debuted in 2013 for the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360. A new edition for the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One released last month adds the ability to play in a first-person perspective, offering a closer glimpse at gameplay, including sex acts that

were previously obscured.

Strauss Zelnick, chairman and CEO of Rockstar Games' parent company, Take-Two Interactive Software Inc., called the Australian retailer's decision to stop selling the game disappointing.

A spokesman said Target Australia would continue to sell other R-rated DVDs and games.

"GTA V" will continue to be sold in Target stores in North America.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 5)	\$1.2629
Dollar buys (Dec. 5)	€0.7918
British pound (Dec. 5)	\$1.61
Japanese yen (Dec. 5)	¥116.00
South Korean won (Dec. 5)	₩1,086.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.5695/0.6372
Canada (dollar)	1.1354
China (Yuan)	6.1500
Denmark (Krone)	6.8204
Egypt (Pound)	7.1501
Euro	\$1.2398/0.8065
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7522
Hungary (Forint)	247.69
Israel (Shekel)	3.9809
Japan (Yen)	119.86
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2912
Lebanon (Pound)	1,056.3
Philippines (Peso)	44.65
Poland (Zloty)	3.36
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7535
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3127
South Korea (won)	1,113.40
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9701
Thailand (Baht)	32.89
Turkey (New Lira)	2.2343

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., rates provided for reference when buying currency with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one euro, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.13
Federal funds market rate	0.13
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	2.99

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.081	\$3.281	\$3.467	\$3.908
Change in price	-4.1 cents	-4.1 cents	-4.1 cents	-2.3 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.147	\$4.418	\$4.344
Change in price	--	-1.1 cents	-0.9 cents	-8.9 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.251	\$4.050	\$3.876
Change in price	--	-4.1 cents	-0.2 cents	-2.3 cents
Azores	--	--	\$3.686	--
Change in price	--	--	no change	--
U.K.	--	\$3.084	\$3.347	\$3.325
Change in price	--	-28.8 cents	-22.8 cents	-50.2 cents
Turkey	--	--	\$3.948	\$4.445*
Change in price	--	--	no change	no change
Italy	\$4.230	--	\$4.277	--
Change in price	-18.9 cents	--	--	-18.9 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.240	--	\$3.689
Change in price	--	-4.0 cents	--	-3.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.889	--	--	\$3.689
Change in price	-1.0 cents	--	--	-3.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.909	--	\$3.289	\$3.729
Change in price	-4.0 cents	--	-2.89 cents	-3.0 cents
Guam	\$2.889**	\$3.089	\$3.279	--
Change in price	-5.8 cents	-5.0 cents	-4.0 cents	--

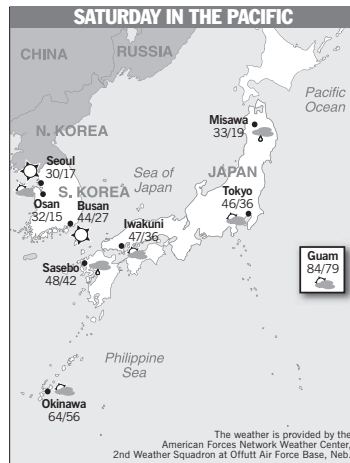
* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Dec 6-12

MARKET WATCH

Dec. 3, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	33.07
	17,912.62
Nasdaq composite	18.66
	4,774.47
Standard & Poor's 500	7.78
	2,074.33
Russell 2000	10.55
	1,179.01

WEATHER OUTLOOK

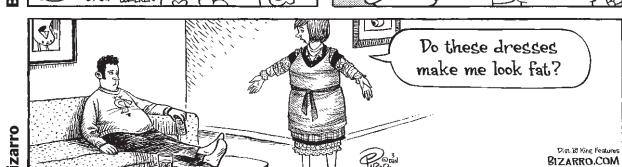
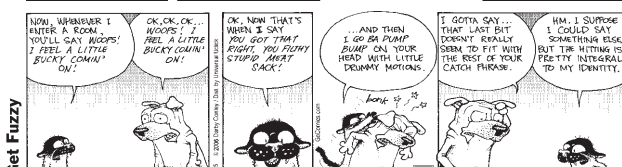
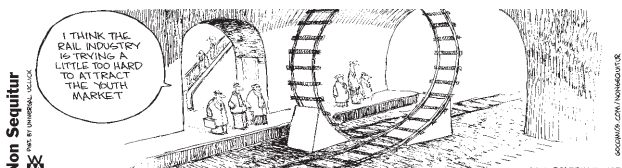
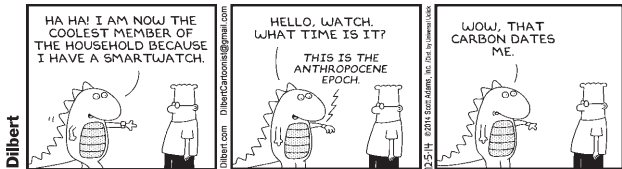


Friday's US temperatures

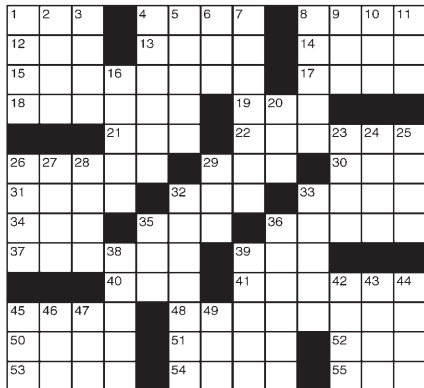
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Arlington, Tex	71	44	Cldy	Chatanooga	63	52	Cldy	Fort Wayne	39	34	Rain	Louisville	61	49	Rain
Akron, Ohio	71	44	Cldy	Cheyenne	50	28	Pcldy	Fresno	66	49	Rain	Lubbock	68	37	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	42	38	Rain	Chicago	41	32	Cldy	Goodland	55	24	Cir	Macon	64	53	Cldy
Albuquerque	56	36	Pcldy	Cincinnati	49	47	Rain	Grand Rapids	39	33	Cldy	Medford	56	44	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	40	35	Cldy	Cleveland	41	37	Rain	Great Falls	34	27	Cldy	Memphis	68	54	Rain
Amarillo	60	33	Cldy	Colorado Springs	54	25	Pcldy	Green Bay	35	24	Rain	Miami Beach	80	71	Cldy
Anchorage	28	21	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	69	47	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	51	44	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	72	40	Rain
Asheville	54	42	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	67	55	Cldy	Hartford	40	38	Rain	Minneapolis	37	30	Rain
Atlanta	62	53	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	45	43	Rain	Harrisburg	40	38	Rain	Mobile	59	47	Cldy
Atlantic City	51	45	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	31	27	Cldy	Helena	38	22	Cldy	Missoula	36	26	Cldy
Austin	74	52	Cldy	Copius Christi	77	63	Cldy	Honolulu	82	67	Cldy	Montgomery	74	55	Cldy
Baltimore	45	40	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	74	52	Cldy	Houston	74	60	Cldy	Nashville	68	57	Rain
Baton Rouge	76	60	Cldy	Dayton	45	41	Rain	Huntsville	69	55	Cldy	New Orleans	75	61	Cldy
Bilings	40	25	Cldy	Denver	79	62	Cldy	Indianapolis	45	39	Rain	New York City	46	44	Rain
Birmingham	69	59	Cldy	Des Moines	40	28	Cldy	Jacksonville	73	60	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	55	49	Cldy
Bismarck	25	7	Pcldy	Detroit	41	31	Cldy	Jacksonville	73	60	Rain	North Platte	50	16	Pcldy
Boise	48	39	Cldy	Duluth	29	11	Cldy	Juneau	34	25	Cldy	Oaklahoma City	61	43	Cldy
Boston	38	37	Rain	El Paso	68	45	Pcldy	Kansas City	47	33	Rain	Omaha	44	26	Cldy
Bridgeport	41	41	Rain	Elkins	48	42	Rain	Key West	80	72	Pcldy	Orlando	81	62	Cldy
Brownsville	78	64	Cldy	Erie	40	38	Rain	Knoxville	63	51	Cldy	Paducah	83	46	Rain
Buffalo	41	35	Cldy	Eugene	55	47	Rain	Lake Charles	74	60	Cldy	Pendleton	39	32	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	39	29	Cldy	Evansville	59	44	Rain	Lansing	38	32	Cldy	Philadelphia	45	40	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	15	10	Pcldy	Fargo	26	7	Pcldy	Las Vegas	63	50	Cldy	Phoenix	75	57	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	66	52	Cldy	Flagstaff	49	29	Pcldy	Lincoln	48	25	Cldy	Pittsburgh	41	39	Rain
Charleston, W.Va.	66	52	Rain	Flint	38	29	Pcldy	Little Rock	65	52	Rain				
Charlotte, N.C.	53	46	Cldy	Fort Smith	67	48	Rain	Los Angeles	69	55	Pcldy				

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 84, Punta Gorda, Fla.
Lo: Wed., 10, Westby, Mont.



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Piercing tool
- 4 Curved molding
- 8 Actress Jessica
- 12 Dance syllable?
- 13 Throw forcefully
- 14 — ex machina
- 15 "House" locale
- 17 Inauguration recitation
- 18 Boorish sorts
- 19 Mischievous tyke
- 21 Put into words
- 22 Feeling of sympathy
- 26 Smooth fabric
- 29 Omega precursor
- 30 Diamond arbiter
- 31 Coll. prep exam
- 32 Adversary
- 33 Dog bane
- 34 Have something
- 35 General Mills offering since 1937
- 36 Housewarming gift, maybe
- 37 Salsa scoopers
- 39 Bikini half
- 40 Business abbr.
- 41 Make effervescent
- 45 Stopper
- 48 Inn
- 50 Penetrating wind
- 51 Fix a text
- 52 Shemp's brother
- 53 Harbor structure

DOWN

- 1 — Breaky Heart
- 2 Horse's halter?
- 3 Cillum
- 4 Buckeye
- 5 Courageous
- 6 Historic time
- 7 Elongated circle
- 8 Take as one's own
- 9 Michele of "Glee"
- 10 However
- 11 Blond shade
- 16 Hypothesize
- 20 — tai
- 23 Luau
- entertainment
- 24 Portent
- 25 Lovers' quarrel
- 26 Bridge
- 27 One side of the Urals
- 28 Body powder
- 29 Plague
- 32 Spassky opponent
- 33 Emergency signal
- 35 "— -Tiki"
- 36 "I'll get you, my —"
- 38 Many a backpacker
- 39 Pesto ingredient
- 42 Mater lead-in
- 43 Walked
- 44 Spud's buds
- 45 Filch
- 46 Kimono closer
- 47 Caviar, basically
- 49 Piece from Pindar

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-5

CRYPTOQUIP

NLUVE LX BNVLMDQED HZL

MEKOVO ZKCYVNX KS TSLHKSI

VUVEP LMMLYKQV-CVDSKSI

HLEO: CDET DSQLSPC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEFORE THE FEATHERED FLIERS GOT ON THE AIRPLANE, THEY HAD TO DISPLAY THEIR BIRDING PASSES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals F

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Republicans see Carter as ally at DOD

By ELI LAKE AND JOSHUA ROGIN
 Bloomberg News

With President Barack Obama's expected nomination of Ashton Carter to be his next secretary of defense, many Republicans see a potential ally inside the Pentagon.

The former deputy of the department is a technocrat, a master of the byzantine process of defense acquisitions and a man who has won high marks for his management skills inside the U.S. government's largest bureaucracy.

But Carter also has a hawkish side. He has been a public advocate for modernizing the U.S. nuclear arsenal, a step opposed by the more dovish side of the arms-control community. When Carter was an academic, before the Obama presidency, he took a hard line on Iran, arguing that the United States should use diplomacy and other kinds of coercion to end the country's enrichment of nuclear fuel. He even advocated for a pre-emptive strike on North Korea's missiles. During his tenure as deputy secretary of defense, from 2011 to 2013, he was one of the strongest opponents in government of the mandatory defense budget cuts known as sequestration.

Sen. John McCain, the next chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, told us that he and Carter had similar views on a number of issues. "Working together, if you're not having to fight the Pentagon, if you've got the leader actively working towards the same goal, that's immensely helpful," McCain said.

McCain said he expected to work closely with Carter on issues that aren't micro-managed by the White House, such as reforming the process by which the Pentagon develops and purchases weapons and cutting the Pentagon's bloated civilian bureaucracy. On issues where the White House has taken a policy lead, such as the negotiations with Iran or the war in Syria, McCain predicted that even if he did cooperate with Carter, it would not make much of a difference. "He's not going to have a

'[Carter] is not going to be allowed to speak out freely, or he will end up where his predecessors ended up, on the ash heap of history.'

Thomas Donnelly
 defense policy expert
 at the American Enterprise Institute

say in it," McCain said. "I certainly could work with him — on Iran and Syria — but I guarantee that he would not have any influence on those decisions."

To be sure, not all conservatives are as upbeat on the prospect of an Ashton Carter Pentagon. Thomas Donnelly, a defense policy expert at the American Enterprise Institute, said Carter doesn't have the gravitas of his predecessors such as Robert Gates, Leon Panetta or even Chuck Hagel, who has won for making public remarks at odds with White House policy. "He's not exactly a guy with all the political skills in the world," Donnelly said. "He's a prickly personality; he's not the world's greatest communicator. He makes Chuck Hagel look like Winston Churchill."

In the end, Donnelly said, even if congressional Republicans made an alliance with Carter on policy issues against the White House, it would not be worth all that much. "I don't think having an alliance with Ash Carter is a bad thing, it just doesn't add that much," he said. "He is not going to be allowed to speak out freely, or he will end up where his predecessors ended up, on the ash heap of history."

Some of Carter's former colleagues in government disputed this characterization. Kurt Campbell, who served in Obama's first term as assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, said he predicts

Carter "will be an ambitious secretary of defense and he will insist on setting his own agenda." Campbell added that Carter will "work closely with the White House but he will want a degree of independence and maneuver room to deal with these extremely challenging issues."

Past stances are also not always a guarantee of future positions for high-level appointees. When Hagel was nominated to replace Panetta at the Pentagon, he was touted by the White House for his opposition to the Iraq War. Yet, once inside the administration, Hagel became one of the strongest advocates for a more aggressive policy in Iraq and Syria following the rise of the Islamic State in those two countries.

One of the most challenging issues for Carter will be to work with the military's most senior generals at a moment when the White House has asked them to fight a new war in Syria and Iraq even as the Pentagon has been forced to make across-the-board cuts to its budget.

"I'm very pleased with the selection of Ash Carter," one Republican senior congressional staff member on defense issues said. "He knows how to get stuff done and he's going to know that Obama can't fire him. So his will be good because Ash Carter is not a guy who will push back on the generals."

That staffer also pointed to Carter's commitment to modernize the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal. As the deputy secretary of defense, for example, Carter once had the president's helicopter, Marine One, land at the mall entrance at the Pentagon in order to inspect the president's secure communications and to make sure they would work in the event of a nuclear war, the staffer said.

Joe Cirincione, president of the Ploughshares Fund, which opposes increased spending on the U.S. nuclear arsenal, said Carter "inherits plans for spending \$1 trillion on new nuclear weapons over the next 30 years but not the money to pay for them. He doesn't want to off the contracts, but he can't afford them either."

30 years on, Bhopal still cries out for answers

By RAVI KUMAR

The march of time can be cruel. As months and years go by it erodes even the most horrifying events until they are dulled of their searing poignancy.

Even one of the worst industrial disasters of our time fades from the world's consciousness after decades have gone by. Thirty years ago, on the night of Dec. 2, 1984, the city of Bhopal, India, was forever identified with catastrophic tragedy. A toxic gas leak from a Union Carbide India Ltd. plant in the center of the city claimed the lives of thousands of people virtually overnight. Half a million people were exposed to contaminated water and air. The news and images of thousands of men, women, children and babies left dead on the ground, having tried to escape the gas, shocked the world.

Three decades later, the attention has gone. But the effects of that horrific day — and the lack of accountability — remain. Upward of 22,000 people have died as a result of the leak, but the people of Bhopal continue to suffer from health problems, and the land and water are still contaminated.

The ruins of the plant still stand and are still poisoning the city. But no one will accept responsibility for the cleanup. Seven former employees of the Indian subsidiary of Union Carbide were found guilty of death by negligence, but U.S.-based Union Carbide Corp. — a majority owner of the

UCIL plant — refused to respond to criminal charges and has been declared an "absconder from justice" by a court in India. Dow Chemical acquired Union Carbide in 2001, but has refused to ensure that Union Carbide respond to multiple judicial summons from Bhopal courts to answer for the disaster.

Bhopal was no mere accident. It was the result of a series of avoidable consequences due to cutting corners, exploiting an untrained and desperately poor workforce, and ignoring all warning signs that could have avoided calamity. And someone must answer.

It was this outrage at the lack of justice that prompted me to make the film "Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain," which was released in the U.S. last month. The scars of that terrible day remain. There are those who still walk the narrow streets with canes after the toxic gas devastated their eyes. Children continue to be born with birth defects, something local activists attribute to the effects of drinking water contaminated by chemicals left at the site. The site of the plant itself is rusting and overgrown, but still seeping poison.

When we visited Bhopal for filming, we attempted to get some footage at the ruined site. Workers' helmets still sat on tables where they were left. Weathered safety signs are still affixed to the walls as silent ironic witnesses. And the smell of cyanide still remains. Our crews could not stay long because of it.

Dow's stubborn refusal to admit any kind of responsibility for Union Carbide over this matter is baffling. Though Dow Chemical was not responsible for the leak itself, it is now 100 percent owner of Union Carbide and must therefore answer its obligations. From a public relations perspective, significant goodwill could be won by investing in the cleanup and in the health and education infrastructure of Bhopal.

Instead, Dow has used the promise of significant future investment to lure the people of Bhopal into accepting their demand to stop all legal action against the company in India. Its Indian subsidiary has used peaceful demonstrators and taken out restraining orders against protesters.

Those are not the actions of a responsible corporation. We will keep telling the stories of the victims and survivors and keep working with organizations like Amnesty International, who are currently encouraging members to support survivors by writing to Dow as part of their annual "Write for Rights" campaign, until Dow and Union Carbide step up and finally give the people of Bhopal the resolution and reparation they deserve. We must not allow the march of time to dull the urgency. Bhopal was not merely a tragedy of the 20th century. It is a human rights travesty today.

Ravi Kumar is a director whose film, "Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain," was released in the U.S. last month. He wrote this in partnership with Amnesty International USA.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Garner decision defies belief
Newsday

What happened Wednesday is incomprehensible.

A Staten Island, N.Y., grand jury voted not to bring criminal charges against NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who threw his arm around Eric Garner's neck last summer in what looked much like a departmentally prohibited chokehold.

Garner cried again and again, "I can't breathe." Then he was dead.

The disturbing viral video shot by a bystander was an emotional gut punch. It was, and still is, difficult to watch. Video can mislead, of course. But what we thought we saw was bluntly buttressed by New York City's medical examiner, who said Garner's death was a homicide resulting from the chokehold and the compression of his chest by police officers.

And now we're back where we were last week in Ferguson, Mo., back where we never really left, with a grand jury's inaction reverberating profoundly and volubly across the country. And with questions we have been unable to answer — about our nation's troubled racial history, about the distrust that exists between minorities and police departments, and about why some of us are not treated equally under the law.

Garner was black. Pantaleo is white. Ferguson victim Michael Brown was black; then-police officer Darren Wilson, who was not indicted by a St. Louis County grand jury, is white.

But the two cases are different. In Ferguson, conflicting testimony and evidence made it impossible to decipher what transpired, and whether Wilson should have felt threatened by Brown.

Garner, on the other hand, did not pose a lethal threat to anyone. He was resisting arrest on suspicion of selling "loosies" — individual cigarettes — a very minor allegation. ...

We've made great progress over the years, but the past has a long and haunting reach. America's race problem has taken a serious turn for the worse. It's time that we honestly confront it.

Aim high on limiting smoking
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

There is plenty of good news in the latest statistics on smoking released last week by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but that doesn't mean Americans cannot and should not do better.

The proportion of adults who smoke was 18.9 percent in 2013, the lowest level since the 1964 ground-breaking surgeon general's report, the first loud alarm about the deadly effects of cigarettes. Smoking's popularity has fallen by more than half since 1965, when 52 percent of men and 34 percent of women were regular cigarette smokers, compared with last year's rate of 20.5 percent among men and 15.3 percent among women.

The results of the National Health Interview Survey, an in-person report compiled each year, found other positive developments in 2013. People who still smoke are, on average, 10 years older than in 1965. And smokers said they lit up every day, last year, that was true of 76.9 percent of smokers. The daily users also puffed on fewer cigarettes per day — 14.2 versus 16.7 in 2005. ...

Americans, even with significant declines over the long term, are probably puffing too much to be able to cut the proportion of smokers to 12 percent of adults



SUSAN WALSH/AP

John P. Elwood, attorney for Anthony Douglas Elonis, who claimed he was just kidding when he posted graphically violent rap lyrics on Facebook about killing his estranged wife, shooting a kindergarten class and attacking an FBI agent, speaks outside the Supreme Court on Monday. The justices are considering whether violent and threatening rap lyrics posted on Facebook deserve protection under the First Amendment.

by 2020, a goal set by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Attaining that low threshold will require a double-barreled approach — lots of smokers will have to give up the habit and a concerted effort will have to be made to stop young people from picking it up.

Encouraging English is enough
Los Angeles Times

The terms "American" and "U.S. citizen" are used interchangeably, but it is widely understood that there is more to being an American than possessing citizenship. The late Harvard political scientist Samuel Huntington noted approvingly in his 2004 book "Who Are We?" that, historically, immigrants to this country became Americans by "adopting America's Anglo-Protestant culture and political values."

Few would quarrel with the notion that being an American entails acceptance of "political values" such as representative government, free speech and the preservation of the rights of minorities. As President Barack Obama said in his second inaugural address, Americans are bound together not by "the colors of our skin or the tenets of our faith or the origins of our names," but rather by the "self-evident" truths of the Declaration of Independence.

Far more controversial is the notion that there is a cultural component of being an American. Sometimes it is asserted that a real American must profess the Christian (or Judeo-Christian) faith. More common is the idea that one cannot be a true American unless one speaks English. Huntington called the English language "central to American identity."

In a country in which 1 out of every 5 residents speaks a foreign language at home, that assertion will strike many as offensive or just wrong. The same is true of perennial efforts in Congress to declare English the official national language. The latest iteration of that proposal is the English Language Unity Act sponsored by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa.

Yet one can oppose such legislation — and we do — and still be troubled that so many immigrants don't speak or understand English well. According to the Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey, nearly 10 million working-age U.S. adults — 19.2 million people between the ages of 16 and 64 — is considered "limited English proficient."

That's disturbing, but not because it represents a dilution of "Anglo-Protestant culture." Our concerns are different ones. First, we believe that a common language is an important unifying force in a country that is diverse in so many other ways. Sec-

ond, now and for the near future, a mastery of English will be important for full political participation and economic advancement in the United States.

English is, and ought to be, the language of government, even in communities in which large numbers of people have a different first language. ...

It's true that under the federal Voting Rights Act, U.S. citizens in many areas have access to ballots in languages other than English (a provision that the King bill apparently would not repeal). Given the importance of the right to vote, such an accommodation is essential. But the language of national political debate is and will remain English. Even with the best of intentions, voters who lack English skills will be hampered in their ability to participate fully in the democratic process. ...

So what should be done?

The answer is not to pass legislation declaring English the official national language. Nor is the solution to increase the difficulty of the current requirement that immigrants seeking naturalization demonstrate some familiarity with English. ...

Instead, we advocate a more positive approach to encourage immigrants to become proficient in English. It would include bilingual education programs for schoolchildren designed to foster, not postpone, acquisition of English skills, along with a significant expansion of programs for adults. ... Such an effort would also help its beneficiaries to be better citizens.

Freedom to be un-'like'-able
The Washington Post

When the government prosecutes someone for using heated language on Facebook? The Supreme Court heard arguments Monday on where it should draw the line between protected speech and "true threats" that even the First Amendment does not protect.

The speech in question, from petitioner Anthony Douglas Elonis' Facebook page, ranges from puerile to despicable, and it includes descriptions of the hypothetical murder of his estranged wife. She was so concerned that she obtained a protective order against her husband, who nevertheless continued to taunt her electronically. Elonis' words and behavior were beyond contempt; his wife is the sympathetic figure in this story. Unfortunately, a ruling that gives Elonis what many would see as his just deserts might also end up being used to discourage speech that deserves protection. The justices must be careful.

The government argues that it can lock up someone like Elonis as long as it convinces a jury that a reasonable person

would construe his words to be a serious threat. Elonis' attorneys and a spate of free-speech advocates, including the newspapers' trade association, counter that the legality of someone's speech should not be left to such a weak and vague standard. Instead, they argue, the government should have to prove that he intended his words to be received as a threat. Some of the justices discussed a middle ground Monday, suggesting the government should have to prove that Elonis was reckless in his disregard for how threatening his words would likely sound. ...

Freedom of speech is the most cherished of American rights, zealously protected by legal rules that give wide berth to expressions of nastiness, pettiness, anger and frustration — and to descriptions of gruesomeness, violence and horror — in order to steer far clear of crushing legitimate speech that might be disfavored by politicians, misunderstood by judges or unpopular in a particular community. Yet the government opposes even having to show recklessness on the part of a speaker in order to go to prison him.

"That's not the kind of standard that we typically use in the First Amendment," Justice Elena Kagan said Monday. "We typically say that the First Amendment requires a kind of buffer zone to ensure that even stuff that is wrongful maybe is permitted because we don't want to chill innocent behavior."

The court must keep that principle in mind — not for Elonis' sake but for the sake of those who might stop speaking out of fear that a prosecutor and jury somewhere will disapprove of what they have to say.

Europe grumbles over Google
San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News

There is a war going on in Europe that could have a significant impact on the U.S. and its economy.

No, we're not talking about Vladimir Putin's expansionist forays into Crimea and Ukraine, although that's a nasty business. More worrisome is what seems to be Europe's war against American tech companies — especially Google. ...

On Nov. 27, members of the European Parliament overwhelmingly voted to take the first steps toward a breakup of Google in Europe. This was pushed by its two largest economies, Germany and France. It is likely to be the first of many actions against what the French refer to as "les Gafa," referring to Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon.

We get it. Europe has long grumbled that Google has 68 percent of the market of Web searches in America and more than 90 percent in many European countries. The numbers are similar with the other three.

With what galls European officials is that, with U.S. firms' enormous reach, they pay relatively little in corporate income taxes and slip beyond the reach of some of the European national regulators. ...

The most serious claim is that Google's search intentionally downgrades competitors, making it impossible for others to reach scale. This places the burden on Google to show that it does not engage in anti-competitive practices. However, you have to wonder whether the inability of European entrepreneurs to swiftly innovate and compete has something to do with Europe's heavily regulated business environment — the anti-Silicon Valley, you might say.

There is one European concern we definitely share, however: user privacy. Critics have called on Google and Facebook to further limit the use of personal data they claim, whether in "opt-in" policy for gathering information rather than the current "opt-out." We've been saying this for years. ...

So we cheer on the European Union as it attacks on the privacy front, and hope Google can neutralize the anti-competitive claim, whether by debunking it or changing some policies.

SPORTS BRIEFS/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Briefly

Florida hires new coach McElwain

The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — After working though a buyout issue, Jim McElwain is leaving Colorado State to become Florida's next head coach.

The Gators announced the hiring Thursday at the same time McElwain started a team meeting with players and assistants. Florida said McElwain agreed to a six-year deal that will average \$3.5 million annually. He made \$1.5 million this year at Colorado State.

McElwain accepted the job after working with Colorado State to reduce his \$7.5 million buyout. Florida will pay the Rams \$3 million over six years. McElwain will pay \$2 million over three. The Gators also will pay Colorado State \$2 million for a game in Gainesville between 2017 and 2020.

"Coach McElwain was someone we targeted from the beginning of the search," Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley said. "The more we worked through the process and did our due diligence, coupled with our meeting and conversations with him and those around him, it was obvious he is the right person to lead the Florida Gator football program."

McElwain took over the program that went 3-9 for three consecutive seasons (2009-11), but has enjoyed a quick turnaround. The Rams went 4-8 in 2012 and 8-6 last year before this season's breakthrough performance. They have wins against rival Colorado and Boston College in 2014.

Nebraska hires Riley away from Oregon St.

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska has hired Oregon State's Mike Riley as its new football coach, replacing the fired Bo Pelini.

Athletic director Shawn Eichorst announced Riley's hiring Thursday. Riley has spent 14 seasons over two tenures at Oregon State, leading the Beavers to 93 wins and a 6-2 record in bowl games.

Riley is a native of Idaho and a graduate of Alabama, where he played for Paul "Bear" Bryant. He'll take over immediately but will not coach the Cornhuskers in their bowl game. Nebraska assistant Barney Cotton is interim head coach.

Oregon State finished this season 5-7 overall, 2-7 in the Pac-12.

Ravens' Ngata banned four games for PEDs

BALTIMORE — Baltimore

Ravens defensive tackle Haloti Ngata was suspended without pay for four games by the NFL on Thursday for taking performance-enhancing substances.

Ngata will miss the rest of the regular season but will be eligible for the playoffs, the league said. Ngata said in a statement released by the team that he took Adderall, a drug used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

"I made a mistake, and I own this," he said.

The suspension costs Baltimore one of its defensive stars as the Ravens compete for a playoff berth. They're 1½ games behind the Cincinnati Bengals in the AFC North division, and one of six 7-5 teams tied for the second wild-card spot.

"I am deeply sorry and broken up over this," Ngata said. "I let down my family, my teammates, Ravens fans and myself. My hope is that the Ravens make the playoffs, and I believe they can do this. And then I can come back and help us win."

Galaxy's Keane named MVP of MLS

LOS ANGELES — Robbie Keane has been named Major League Soccer's Most Valuable Player after the Irish forward's dynamic season for the Los Angeles Galaxy. MLS announced the award Wednesday.

The 34-year-old Keane had 19 goals and 14 assists while leading the Galaxy's MLS-best offense, providing dangerous attacking and steady leadership for the MLS Cup finalists. Keane will attempt to win his third title with the team when they host New England in the championship game Sunday.

Braves reach deal with OF Markakis

ATLANTA — Moving to fill an outfield void after the trade of Jason Heyward, the Atlanta Braves agreed Wednesday to a four-year contract with free agent Nick Markakis.

The Braves probably aren't done dealing either.

The 31-year-old Markakis spent the first nine years of his career with the Baltimore Orioles. This past season, he batted .276 with 14 homers and 50 RBIs while winning his second Gold Glove.

The deal is contingent on Markakis passing a physical. Terms were not announced by the team, but multiple reports indicated it was worth \$44 million.

In other MLB news:

■ The Seattle Mariners have traded outfielder Michael Saunders to the Toronto Blue Jays in exchange for veteran left-handed pitcher J.A. Happ.



ANDY MANIS/AP

Duke's Tyus Jones, right, shoots past Wisconsin's Nigel Hayes during the first half Wednesday in Madison. Wis. scored 22 points as No. 4 Duke beat No. 2 Wisconsin 80-70.

Top 25 roundup

Jones lifts Duke over Badgers

The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Tyus Jones darted through the lane to easy baskets and hit two key three-pointers. Any time he made a big play, his family followed with raucous applause.

It was quite a Midwest homecoming Wednesday night for Duke's freshman point guard.

Jones scored 22 points, junior Rasheed Sulaimon added 14 and the fourth-ranked Blue Devils shot 65 percent to beat No. 2 Wisconsin 80-70 in a highly anticipated matchup of college basketball heavyweights.

Jones' mother led the cheers after making the roughly 4½-hour drive from the Minneapolis suburb of Apple Valley, Minn.

"This is the closest game to home, so I had a lot of family and friends here. You know, seeing my mom right behind the bench ... helps and she was loving it," Jones said.

With 17 points, Wisconsin senior Frank Kaminsky outscored Duke freshman Jahliil Okafor (13 points) in a test for two of the nation's top big men.

But it was another touted freshman, Jones, who helped open things up for the Blue Devils (8-0) in the second half.

The lightning-quick Jones followed a transition layup with an assist on jumper Amile Jefferson's jumper to cap a 6-0 run that gave Duke a 69-60 lead with about 3 minutes left against the Badgers (7-1).

"When those freshmen see that the upperclassmen are setting the table for them, it helps a lot," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "They didn't look like freshmen tonight."

Off an inbound pass, freshman Justise Winslow's dunk after strolling uncontested down the lane seemed to demoralize the Badgers one last time as Duke took an eight-point lead with about 1:20 left.

It was a thunderous end to a December game that had the tense feel of March. The showcase of the ACC/Big Ten Challenge could also prove to be a Final Four preview.

No. 7 Virginia 76, No. 21 Maryland 65: Malcolm Brogdon scored 18 points, Justin Anderson added 16 and Virginia turned up the defense to hand host Maryland its first loss.

The Cavaliers (8-0) and Terrapins (7-1) played twice a year for decades when both were in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Now in its first year as a

member of the Big Ten, Maryland trailed throughout against its longtime rival in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

No. 25 Utah 69, No. 8 Wichita State 68 (OT): Delon Wright hit a go-ahead jumper in the lane with 14 seconds left in overtime to boost host Utah over Wichita State, snapping the Shockers' regular-season winning streak at 33 games.

Wright scored five of his 13 points in the extra period as Utah (6-1) withstood a late Shockers comeback and three missed free throws in the final 3.2 seconds. He also had seven assists and six rebounds.

Brandon Taylor had 17 points and Dakari Tucker scored 13 for the Utes, who hadn't hosted such a highly ranked team since toppling No. 1 Alabama 51-49 on Dec. 30, 1999. Jakob Pochlt had 12 points and 11 boards.

No. 10 Villanova 84, La Salle 70: Darrun Hilliard and Dylan Ennis each scored 15 points to lead host Villanova past La Salle.

Josh Hart and JayVaughn Pinkston each added 12 points for the Wildcats (7-0), who shot 7-for-14 from three-point range.

Iowa 60, No. 12 North Carolina 55: Mike Gesell hit a driving layup through contact for the go-ahead three-point play with 1:16 left, helping Iowa upset host North Carolina in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

Gesell finished with 16 points for the Hawkeyes (6-2), who outfigured the Tar Heels (5-2) on a night when both teams struggled to shoot straight.

Gesell's basket was the team's first after a 4-minute drought, but it ended up providing the winning margin on a night when the Hawkeyes won despite shooting 33 percent.

Notre Dame 79, No. 19 Michigan State 78 (OT): Jerian Grant scored a career-high 27 points and Demetrius Jackson added a career-best 22 to help host Notre Dame in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

In the first meeting between the schools in 35 years, Jackson's three-point play 2:19 into overtime put the Fighting Irish (7-1) ahead by five. His free throw with 5 seconds left helped seal the victory.

No. 23 Butler 77, Indiana State 54: Kellen Dunham and Roosevelt Jones each scored 14 points to lead Butler past longtime rival Indiana State.

The Bulldogs (6-1) climbed into the Top 25 for the first time in nearly 22 months this week and won in Terre Haute for the first time since 2002.

NHL/NBA

NHL roundup

Chicago's 3-goal 3rd tops Blues

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Kris Versteeg scored 59 seconds into the third period, Patrick Kane added two more goals, and the Chicago Blackhawks beat the St. Louis Blues 4-1 on Wednesday night for their fourth consecutive victory.

Marcus Kruger also scored for Chicago, and Antti Raanta had 40 saves in his first start since Corey Crawford was sidelined by a left foot injury. Versteeg also had the primary assist on each of Kane's goals.

"I'm just trying to get the puck into great players' hands and let them go to work," Versteeg said. "Those two guys have been helping me out a lot. Just got to keep going and grinding it out."

Back at home after a 5-1 road trip, Chicago killed off each of St. Louis' six power plays and won for the seventh time in eight games.

"You can blame the power plays all you want and your best players on the power play, but this was the game away in the third period," Blues coach Ken Hitchcock said.

Ian Cole scored in the second period for Blues, who had won four of five. Jake Allen made 29 saves.

"You can't let a team with that skill get those chances, but it was only a five-minute span, and they took advantage of it," Allen said.

Ducks 5, Flyers 4 (SO): Jakob Silfverberg and Corey Perry scored in the shootout, and host Anaheim rebounded from Wayne Simmonds' late tying goal for a victory over spiraling Philadelphia.

Simmonds scored his second goal with 2.6 seconds left in regulation for the Flyers, who won their ninth consecutive road game.

Frederik Andersen made 31 saves for Anaheim, stopping Claude Giroux to end the shootout.

Patrick Maroon scored in the third period for the Ducks, who pulled even at Tampa Bay atop the overall NHL standings with their fifth win in seven games.

Steve Mason stopped 29 shots in the Flyers' sixth straight defeat overall — and their second straight heartbreaker following a last-minute loss in San Jose.

Wild 2, Canadiens 1: Jason Zucker and Jason Pominville scored improbable goals to lift host Minnesota over Montreal. The Wild have won seven of 10.

Alex Galchenyuk scored in the final minute after Montreal pulled goalie Carey Price, who made 33 saves. The Canadiens are 1-3-1 in their past five games.

Jets 3, Oilers 2 (OT): Matthew Perreault scored 17 seconds into overtime, and Winnipeg sent visiting Edmonton to its 11th straight loss.

Perreault tipped Jacob Trouba's point shot past goalie Ben Scrivens to win it.



CHARLES REX ARNDT/AP

Blackhawks left wing Daniel Carrillo is sandwiched between St. Louis Blues goalie Jake Allen and Alex Pietrangeli during the third period on Wednesday in Chicago. The Blackhawks won 4-1.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference										Wild 2, Canucks 1									
Atlantic Division										Montreal									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Tampa Bay	27	17	8	2	36	70				Minnesota	30	1	1	0	2	1	0	1-0-2	
Montreal	27	17	8	2	36	70				First Period—1, Minnesota, Zucker 10:02 (Kovul), 19:57.									
Detroit	25	14	8	2	36	70				Second Period—2, Minnesota, Pominov 10:02, 12:10.									
Toronto	24	13	8	3	29	81				Third Period—3, Montreal, Galchenyuk 10:02, 12:02, 15:02.									
Boston	26	14	11	1	29	63				Shots on Goal—Montreal 6-4-9—Nine shots.									
Florida	24	7	16	2	26	58				Lower play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 1; Minnesota 0 of 5.									
Ottawa	24	10	9	5	25	63				Power-play opportunities—Montreal (3 shots-3 saves), Minnesota, Kuemper 11-7-0 (18:34).									
Buffalo	25	14	2	2	30	45				OT—A19:24 (17:54), T-2:32.									
Metropolitan Division										Ducks 5, Flyers 4 (SO)									
Pittsburgh	24	17	5	2	36	82				Philadelphia									
N.Y. Islanders	25	17	7	0	36	80				Anaheim									
N.Y. Rangers	24	11	9	4	26	71				First Period—1, Philadelphia, Rafferty (Gironi), 10:02.									
Washington	24	10	10	1	24	68				Second Period—1, Philadelphia, Fowler 3 (Silverberg, Anderson), 8:51.									
New Jersey	25	9	12	4	22	58				Philadelphia 10 (Laughton, MacKenzie, Hensley, 8:46, 4, Philadelphia, Ungerer 10:02, 11:02, 13:55, 15:00, 15:55, 16:00, 16									

NBA roundup

76ers win, avoid tying worst start

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Philadelphia 76ers avoided tying the record for the worst start to a season in NBA history, ending their 0-17 skid with an 85-77 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

Michael Carter-Williams had 20 points, nine rebounds and nine assists and Robert Covington added 17 points to keep Philadelphia from tying the 0-18 start by the New Jersey Nets in 2009-10.

"For me personally, I think it's a big relief off my chest," Carter-Williams said. "And the same is for the rest of the guys now that we got a win."

Particularly the first one for a team with the youngest roster in league history.

"We feel like this validates the work they've put in," Brown said. "I just have a tremendous amount of respect for the fact that they never once quit on themselves, short-circuited a practice, and they were rewarded tonight."

The game got off to an awkward start when 16 seconds into the first quarter, referees realized that the two teams were going in the wrong direction. A foul on the Timberwolves had to be wiped away and the game restarted with a new jump ball, prompting heads to be scratched all over the arena.

The Sixers shot just 39 percent against the worst defense in the league and turned the ball over 19 times. They scored only nine points in the second quarter, but in the end there were smiles and hugs for the first time since the arena.

"That's what makes it bad," Wolves forward Corey Brewer said. "They play that bad and we still lose. We have to look at ourselves, man. It's tough. We can't lose that game, period."

Gorgui Dieng had 15 points and 16 rebounds for the Timberwolves. But Minnesota shot just 35.7 percent and turned the ball over 19 times to lose for the 11th time in 13 games.

Celtics 109, Pistons 102 (OT): Jeff Green scored 32 points, including a three-pointer as host Boston opened overtime with eight straight points and snapped a five-game losing streak.

The loss was the 10th in a row for Detroit. Greg Monroe scored 15 of his 29 points after the 3:13 mark of the fourth, when the Pistons erased an 11-point deficit. But Detroit never recovered after giving up the first three baskets — including a pair of three-pointers — to start the extra period.

Nets 95, Spurs 93 (OT): At New York, Mirza Teletovic had a season-high 26 points and a career-best 15 rebounds starting his third game. Kevin Garnett, and Brooklyn snapped San Antonio's

eight-game winning streak.

The Nets regrouped in overtime after blowing a 14-point lead in the final 5 minutes of regulation and beat a team with a winning record for the first time this season.

Hawks 112, Heat 102: Jeff Teague scored 27 points, Kyle Korver scored 18 and Atlanta handed Miami another home loss.

Dennis Schroder scored 16 and Paul Millsap finished with 14 for the Hawks, who beat the Heat for the second time in two meetings this season. An 18-5 run to end the third quarter was the deciding blow for Atlanta.

Clippers 114, Magic 86: Blake Griffin scored 21 points and J.J. Redick had 20 before both sat out the fourth quarter, and host Los Angeles won its sixth straight.

Chris Paul had 19 points and 10 assists for the Clippers, who have won their past four by an average margin of 21.6 points.

Mavericks 107, Bucks 105: At Milwaukee, Monta Ellis hit a wild, fallaway jumper at the buzzer to lift Dallas.

Ellis scored eight in the final two minutes on what otherwise had been a bad shooting night for the Mavericks' top scorer, playing against his former team.

Dallas won its fifth in a row while resting Dirk Nowitzki because of a sore back.

Bulls 102, Hornets 95: Pau Gasol had 19 points and 15 rebounds, Joakim Noah and Nikola Mirotic each posted double-doubles, and Chicago handed host Charlotte its 10th straight loss.

Noah had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Mirotic added 11 points. In 12 rebounds as the Bulls bounced back from a double-overtime loss to Dallas on Tuesday night.

Raptors 123, Jazz 104: Kyle Lowry scored a season-high 35 points on 13-for-22 shooting as Toronto handed host Utah its seventh consecutive loss.

Greivis Vasquez and Lou Williams each had 17 for the Raptors.

Rockets 105, Grizzlies 96: James Harden scored 21 points, and Trevor Ariza and Jason Terry added 16 each to help short-handed Houston cruise past visiting Memphis.

The Grizzlies had won five in a row, and their two previous losses this season had been by a combined five points.

Memphis jumped out to an 8-0 lead in this one but couldn't do that after that. Houston didn't trail after the fourth quarter.

Wizards 111, Lakers 96: Bradley Beal scored 27 points, John Wall had 17 points and 15 assists, and host Washington won its third straight and prevented Los Angeles from getting its first three-game winning streak in more than a year.

NBA SCOREBOARD

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	15	4	.789	—
Brooklyn	9	10	.476	6
Boston	5	11	.313	8½
New York	4	15	.211	11
Philadelphia	3	16	.158	13
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	11	6	.647	1
Atlanta	9	9	.500	3½
Orlando	7	14	.333	7
Charlotte	5	15	.250	9
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	12	7	.632	—
Memphis	9	7	.561	1½
Milwaukee	10	5	.500	2½
Indiana	11	6	.643	3
Detroit	3	16	.158	9

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	15	3	.833	—
Houston	14	4	.776	1
Dallas	5	5	.500	7
San Antonio	4	10	.286	10
New Orleans	3	16	.158	11
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	14	4	.778	—
Denver	9	9	.500	5
Oklahoma City	9	13	.409	8
Utah	5	14	.263	9½
Minnesota	5	15	.250	10
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	13	5	.882	—
L.A. Clippers	13	5	.722	2½
Phoenix	11	8	.579	5
Sacramento	7	12	.364	8½
L.A. Lakers	5	14	.263	11

Tuesday's games				
Cleveland 111, Milwaukee 108	11	6	.647	1
Orlando 99, Boston 95	5	15	.250	9
L.A. Lakers 106, Detroit 96	5	15	.250	9
Brooklyn 98, New York 93	5	15	.250	9
New Orleans 91, Detroit 88	3	16	.158	11
Dallas 132, Chicago 129	10	7	.632	—
Phoenix 116, Indiana 99	9	7	.561	1½
Portland 105, Denver 103	9	7	.561	1½
Golden State 98, Orlando 97	14	4	.778	—
Wednesday's games				
Washington 112, Charlotte 95	11	6	.647	1
Atlanta 112, Miami 102	9	9	.500	3½
Boston 109, Detroit 102, OT	9	9	.500	3½
Brooklyn 99, New York 93, OT	9	9	.500	3½
Houston 105, Memphis 96	5	15	.250	9
Dallas 107, Philadelphia 105	5	15	.250	9
Phoenix 116, Indiana 99	9	7	.561	1½
Toronto 123, Utah 104	10	7	.632	—
Portland 114, Orlando 86	9	7	.561	1½
Thursday's games				
Cleveland 107, New York 93	9	9	.500	3½
Orlando 99, Boston 95	5	15	.250	9
New Orleans 91, Detroit 88	3	16	.158	11
Dallas 107, Philadelphia 105	5	15	.250	9
Phoenix 116, Indiana 99	9	7	.561	1½
Toronto 123, Utah 104	10	7	.632	—
Portland 114, Orlando 86	9	7	.561	1½
Friday's games				
Cleveland 107, New York 93	9	9	.500	3½
Orlando 99, Boston 95	5	15	.250	9
New Orleans 91, Detroit 88	3	16	.158	11
Dallas 107, Philadelphia 105	5	15	.250	9
Phoenix 116, Indiana 99	9	7	.561	1½
Toronto 123, Utah 104	10	7	.632	—
Portland 114, Orlando 86	9	7	.561	1½
Saturday's games				
Philadelphia 107, Detroit 102	9	9	.500	3½
Golden State 98, Orlando 97	14	4	.778	—
Portland 114, Orlando 86	9	7	.561	1½
Orlando 99, Boston 95	5	15	.250	9
New Orleans 91, Detroit 88	3	16	.158	11
Dallas 107, Philadelphia 105	5	15	.250	9
Phoenix 116, Indiana 99	9	7	.561	1½
Toronto 123, Utah 104	10	7	.632	—
Portland 114, Orlando 86	9	7	.561	1½

Saturday's games				
Philadelphia 107, Detroit 102	9	9	.500	3½
Golden State 98, Orlando 97	14	4	.778	—
Portland 114, Orlando 86	9	7	.561	1½
Orlando 99, Boston 95	5	15	.250	9
New Orleans 91, Detroit 88	3	16	.158	11
Dallas 107, Philadelphia 105	5	15	.250	9
Phoenix 116, Indiana 99	9	7	.561	1½
Toronto 123, Utah 104	10	7	.632	—
Portland 114, Orlando 86	9	7	.561	1½
Sunday's games				
Philadelphia 107, Detroit 102	9	9	.500	3½
Golden State 98, Orlando 97	14	4	.778	—
Portland 114, Orlando 86	9	7	.561	1½
Orlando 99, Boston 95	5	15	.250	9
New Orleans 91, Detroit 88	3	16	.158	11
Dallas 107, Philadelphia 105	5	15	.250	9
Phoenix 116, Indiana 99	9	7	.561	1½
Toronto 123, Utah 104	10	7	.632	—
Portland 114, Orlando 86	9	7	.561	1½

76ers 85, Timberwolves 77

PHILADELPHIA — Timothee Luwawu-Cuauz scored 22 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 85-77 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday.

Luwawu-Cuauz finished with 22 points, 11 rebounds and six assists. He also had two steals and one block. The 76ers' defense held the Timberwolves to 30 points in the second half.

Minnesota's Karl-Anthony Towns led the team with 25 points and 11 rebounds. He also had three assists and one steal. The Timberwolves' offense struggled in the second half, scoring only 27 points.

The 76ers' defense was the key to their victory. They held the Timberwolves to 30 points in the second half and forced 15 turnovers. The 76ers' offense was also effective, scoring 25 points in the second half.

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76ers, from left, Drew Gordon, JaKarr Sampson and Jerami Grant watch from the bench in the fourth quarter against the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday in Minneapolis. Philadelphia avoided flying the record for the worst start to a season in NBA history, ending its 0-17 skid with an 85-77 victory.

Wizards 111, Lakers 95

L.A. LAKERS — Johnson 2-6 0-0, Boozer 5-9 0-0, Hill 3-6 0-0, Bynum 1-0 0-0, Bryant 8-22 11-19, Davis 1-2 3-4, Price 4-0 0-11, Young 7-14 0-22, Sacre 3-0 0-6, Ellington 0-5 0-0, Totals 33-85 17-21-95.

WASHINGTON — Pierce 6-15 2-4 14, Humphries 3-7 0-0, Gortat 9-13 3-21, Bynum 1-8 4-5 17, Beal 11-19 2-27, Butler 5-7 2-2 14, Gooden 0-2 0-0, Porter 1-5 2-2, Seraphin 2-4 0-1, Miller 2-3 0-0 4, Totals 45-92 15-19-111.

L.A. Lakers 31, Wizards 25

Washington 27, Lakers 23

Three-point Goals—Lakers 12-28 (Young 5-8, Price 3-3, Johnson 2-5, Bryant 2-4, Ellington 0-1, Lin 0-4, Washington 6-19) (Beal 3-4, Butler 2-3, Wall 1-5, Gooden 0-2, Pierce 0-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 49 (Bryant 15, Davis 8), Washington 39 (Humphries 20). Assists—L.A. Lakers 18 (Lin 5, Washington 33 (Wall 15). Total Fouls—L.A. Lakers 20, Washington 15. Technicals—L.A. Lakers defensive three second. A—18,490 (20,308).

Nets 95, Spurs 93 (OT)

SAN ANTONIO — Leonard 4-16 3-14, Duncan 5-18 4-4 14, Diaw 0-6 0-0, Parker 4-13 0-9, Green 7-14 0-0 20, Ginobili 6-13 1-2 15, Joseph 3-8 1-22, Baynes 2-5 0-4, Bortner 3-8 0-10 7, Beal 2-3 0-5 0-5, Totals 36-100 12-39-93.

BROOKLYN — Johnson 4-16 0-8, Teletov 2-13 2-2 5, Lopez 2-17 4-4 16, Rivers 6-15 3-4 17, Bogdanovic 5-10 0-2, Anderson 1-5 0-10 12, Gortat 1-0 0-2, Plumlee 1-3 0-4 2, Totals 30-71 12-35.

San Antonio 29, Nets 26

Brooklyn 21, Nets 20

Three-point Goals—San Antonio 12-28 (Green 6-11, Ginobili 2-7, Parker 1-1, Teletov 1-2, Leonard 1-2, Bonner 1-6, Duncan 0-1, Diaw 0-2), Brooklyn 9-19 (Teletov 5-7, Bogdanovic 2-4, Williams 2-5, Jack 0-1, Anderson 1-1, Mingo 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 35 (Duncan 17), Brooklyn 24 (Teletov 10, Rivers 10). Assists—San Antonio 23 (Parker 6), Brooklyn 20 (Williams 9). Total Fouls—San Antonio 19, Brooklyn 14. A—15,389 (17,732).

Hawks 112, Heat 102

ATLANTA — Carroll 2-9 2-3 6, Millsap 6-12 1-14, Horford 2-3 2-6, Teague 6-11 8-8 27, Korver 6-12 3-3 18, Antic 1-4 2-4 4, Mack 2-5 0-5, Schroder 6-9 2-16, Scott 3-5 0-0 0-5, Selfolaha 2-4 0-0 7, Bazemore 0-0 0-0 0-0, Totals 40-74 20-23-112.

MIAMI — Bosh 1-3 3-5 8, McRoberts 2-4 0-0 4, Deng 9-12 6-8 27, Chalmers 6-8 7-9 15, Wade 11-20 8-28, Napier 2-4 2-2 7, Hamilton 1-7 0-2, Ennis 1-3 0-2, Williams 2-5 0-6, Granger 0-2 0-0, Haslem 1-1 0-2 0-2, Totals 36-64 26-32-102.

Atlanta 28, Heat 24

Three-point Goals—Atlanta 12-25 (Teague 3-5, Korver 3-7, Schroder 2-3, Selfolaha 1-1, Millsap 1-1, Scott 1-1, Mack 1-3, Carroll 0-2, Antic 0-2), Miami 6-8 (Bosh 3-3, Williams 2-3, Napier 1-3, McRoberts 0-1, Deng 0-1, McRoberts 0-1, Chalmers 0-2, Wade 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Atlanta 37 (Millsap 13, Korver 6), Miami 36 (Bosh 11). Assists—Atlanta 25 (Teague 6), Miami 25 (Chalmers 11). Total Fouls—Atlanta 24, Miami 24. A—19,600 (16,600).

Raptors 123, Jazz 104 (OT)

TORONTO — G-10 1-12, Valanciunas 4-9 1-29, Lowry 12-22 9-39, Vasquez 7-13 1-17, Williams 5-9 6-67, Patterson 5-6 0-10, Johnson 1-2 0-0 2, Hansbrough 0-2 2-2, Stiemsma 0-0 0-0 0-0, Totals 45-79 12-35.

UTAH — Hayward 5-14 5-14, Favors 9-13 1-15, Kanter 9-13 1-15, Burris 0-2 0-2, Hood 3-8 2-10, Clark 0-2 0-0, Booker 4-4 1-2 5, Ingle 5-10 12, Gortat 1-0 0-2, Totals 40-74 20-23-112.

Toronto 31, Jazz 28

Three-point Goals—Toronto 12-21 (Lowry 4-5, Patterson 3-4, Vasquez 3-5, Williams 1-2, Ross 1-3, Johnson 0-2, Antic 0-2, Clark 0-1, Eum 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Utah 45 (Valanciunas 6), Utah 40 (Kanter 9). Assists—Toronto 15 (Vasquez 5), Toronto 21 (Burke 8). Total Fouls—Toronto 16, Utah 15. Flagrant Fouls—Gortat 1. A—16,677 (18,811).

Bulls 102, Hornets 95

CHICAGO — Dunleavy 3-5 0-0 9, Gasol 7-19 5-19, Noah 6-9 2-14, Rose 5-12 3-3 15, Butler 5-11 4-15, Hinrich 4-12 2-4 4, Mirovic 4-8 1-11, Brooks 3-7 0-0 7, Snell 0-0 0-0 0-0, Totals 37-80 16-21-102.

CHARLOTTE — Henderson 4-8 2-2 10, Zeller 5-9 2-2, Jefferson 5-13 3-4 13, Walker 7-18 8-9 23, Stephenson 9-18 2-2 20, Williams 2-5 2-6, Hairston 1-7 2-2 4, Byrumba 2-4 0-4, Roberts 1-8 0-0 3, Pargo 0-0 0-0 0-0, Totals 36-90 21-23-95.

Chicago 26, Bulls 24

Three-point Goals—Chicago 12-28 (Dunleavy 3-5, Hinrich 3-5, Mirovic 2-4, Rose 2-7, Brooks 1-2, Butler 1-4), Hornets 2-15 (Roberts 1-3, Walker 1-3, Henderson 0-1, Williams 0-2, Stephenson 0-2, Hairston 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 38 (Gasol 15), Charlotte 46 (Zeller, Stephenson 8). Assists—Chicago 27 (Noah 7), Charlotte 17 (Walker, Stephenson 4). Total Fouls—Chicago 18, Charlotte 21. Technicals—Noah, Rose. A—16,887 (19,077).

Mavericks 107, Bucks 105

DALLAS — Parsons 6-17 1-12 4, Aminu 5-11 1-1 13, Chandler 8-11 2-16, Nelson 5-10 1-1 13, Crawford 1-2 0-0 2, Jefferson 2-5 0-0 10, Wright 2-3 4-7, Harris 1-6 0-2 5, Barea 1-4 2-5, Crowder 1-1 0-0 1, Williams 0-0 0-0 0-0, Totals 42-82 16-27-107.

MILWAUKEE — Antetokounmpo 1-4 1-2 3, Parker 3-4 2-5 8, Sanders 3-6 0-6 6, Knight 8-16 7-25, Mayo 3-7 4-12 14, Barea 3-6 2-3, Dudley 2-5 0-0 8, Bosh 3-6 2-3, Middleton 8-13 4-6 21, Marshall 3-4 0-2 0-2, Totals 38-73 23-46-105.

Dallas 29, Bucks 27

Three-point Goals—Dallas 9-27 (Antetokounmpo 3-5, Aminu 2-5, Barea 1-2, Jefferson 1-3, Parsons 1-6, Ellis 0-3, Harris 0-3, Milwaukee 1-1 (Oudry 2-2, Mayo 2-3, Knight 2-5, Middleton 1-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Dallas 42 (Antetokounmpo 14, Parker 14), Milwaukee 24 (Knight, Mayo 6). Assists—Dallas 20 (Antetokounmpo 5), Total Fouls—Dallas 23, Milwaukee 24. Technicals—Dallas Bench, Pachulia. A—13,588 (18,177).

Rockets 105, Grizzlies 96

MEMPHIS — Allen 4-7 2-2 10, Randolph 2-5 4-8 9, Gasol 6-11 8 18, Conley 5-9 4-15, Lee 2-4 0-4, Udrih 3-3 3-4 9, Ponder 1-7 1-7 2, Carter 1-6 7-7, Kousser 4-8 0-8, Leuer 3-9 1-2, Calathes 3-5 0-3 6, Stokes 5-7 2-4 12, Totals 39-76 16-27-96.

HOUSTON — Ariza 18-23 2-15, Metcalfe 7-7 1-10 15, Black 5-9 0-10, Terry 6-10 3-5 16, Hardin 6-11 7-21, Dorsey 3-3 1-2 7, Johnson 1-5 0-2, Garcia 2-4 0-6, Papanikolaou 6-14 0-12, Daniels 0-3 0-0, Capela 0-6 0-2 0, Totals 43-93 13-20-105.

Memphis 28, Houston 28

Three-point Goals—Memphis 7-23 (Carter 1-2, Conley 1-4, Allen 0-1, Leuer 0-2, Black 0-2, Ponder 0-2, Houston 10-20). Assists—Memphis 28 (Carter 7, Terry 3, Johnson 2, Hardin 2-5, Ariza 2-8, Metcalfe 1-1, Johnson 0-1, Papanikolaou 0-2, Daniels 0-2, Conley 0-2, None. Rebounds—Memphis 50 (Gasol 7), Houston 28 (Black 11). Assists—Memphis 28 (Calathes, Conley 6), Houston 22 (Terry 3, Total Fouls—Memphis 15, Houston 16. Technicals—Gasol, Houston defensive three second. A—18,151 (18,023).

Celtics 109, Pistons 102 (OT)

DETROIT — Singler 1-7 0-0 3, Smith 4-15 4-12, Drummond 12-18 3-8 27, Jennings 0-11 1-2 1, Caldwell-Pope 6-15 0-6 15, Monroe 9-17 11-11 29, Butler 3-9 0-8, Martin 2-0 0-6, Augustin 4-6 1-2 1, Jerebko 0-1 0-0 0-0, Totals 37-102 20-20-102.

BOSTON — Green 8-22 10-20 32, Sullinger 5-12 12-24 30, Boston 6-15 0-6 10, 0-0 2, Bradley 2-5 0-0 2, Turner 3-8 3-4 9, Olynyk 9-12 2-5

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Big Ten title has eluded Buckeyes

By RUSTY MILLER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State coach Urban Meyer showed smooth timing as he went down the list of accomplishments by his senior class.

He mentioned that they helped set a school record with 24 consecutive wins, that they've won 35 of their last 38 games, that they've captured three Big Ten division titles and that they haven't lost a conference game the last three regular seasons.

Then, without skipping a beat, he added, "One thing you'll notice I did not mention in there was a championship."

After going 6-7 as freshmen, and then missing out on the league title game due to NCAA probation, they were beaten by Michigan State 34-24 in last year's Big Ten championship game.

Now the Buckeyes (11-1, 8-0 Big Ten, No. 5 CFP) get a second chance at winning one when they take on No. 11 Wisconsin (10-2, 7-1, No. 13 CFP) on Saturday night in Indianapolis.

Like having a résumé with a gigantic hole in the middle, the Buckeyes know that all of their accomplishments don't mean much without this one prize.

"A lot of guys in our class are like, 'We haven't won anything since we've been here,'" senior cornerback Doran Grant said. "We've won a couple Eastern Division championships, but we haven't won a Big Ten title or anything bigger than that. That's our main goal."

Two weeks ago Meyer said returning to Indianapolis was his team's primary goal coming into the season.

"That was everything," he said. "Everything we did was to get another shot at the Big Ten championship. Everything, and that's at



**Big Ten Championship
Wisconsin vs. Ohio State**
AFN-Atlantic
2 a.m. Sunday CET
10 a.m. Sunday JKT

the doorstep."

Wisconsin stands in the way. And the Badgers are almost the anti-Buckeyes when it comes to Big Ten titles.

They've played in the championship three of its four years and are chasing their fourth Big Ten crown in five seasons after winning three in a row, 2010-12.

Meanwhile, the Buckeyes — despite being national contenders the past three years — can't even claim one ring.

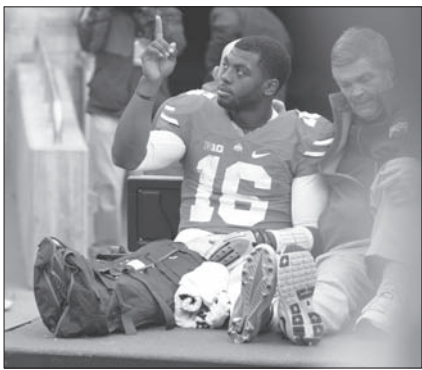
The Buckeyes would also miss out on a shot at the playoff if they lose to the Badgers.

They've steadily climbed in the CFP rankings. But now that they're so close to contending for one of those four precious berths, they're coming off a win over rival Michigan in which they lost star quarterback J.T. Barrett to a broken ankle.

Jeff Long, chairman of the committee which decides the playoff teams, said his group will judge the Buckeyes' performance without Barrett and with Cardale Jones as his replacement to see if Ohio State is worthy of a playoff spot.

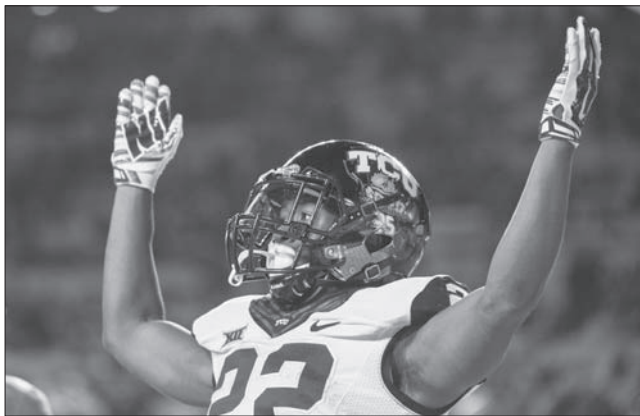
A lot is clearly riding on this one game at Lucas Oil Stadium.

"That's how you want to go out," tight end Jeff Heuerman said. "You want to go out being a Big Ten champion."



Jay LaPrete/AP

Ohio State will have to try to win the Big Ten title without quarterback J.T. Barrett, who broke his ankle during last week's victory over Michigan.



Ashley Landis/AP

TCU's Aaron Green celebrates a touchdown during the second half of last week's 48-10 victory over Texas in Austin, Texas. TCU is in position to make the first playoff if it can beat Iowa State on Saturday.

TCU, Baylor might benefit from no Big 12 title game

By LUKE MEREDITH
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The final weekend in the Big 12 will illustrate both the risk and reward that come with the league's decision to do away with its title game.

The lack of a championship game might not always work out for the Big 12 in the playoff era. This year, it could help push Baylor and TCU into the final four.

While the rest of the nation's top playoff contenders face title-game showdowns — or elimination games, depending on how they play — the Big 12 wraps up its regular season with three games that are part of its round-robin schedule with 10 teams.

No. 5 Baylor (10-1, 7-1 Big 12), which was seventh in last week's playoff standings, will get one more chance to boost its résumé when it hosts No. 9 Kansas State (9-2, 7-1) on Saturday. No. 4 TCU (10-1, 7-1) entertains woeful Iowa State (2-9, 0-8), while No. 18 Oklahoma (8-3, 5-3) and Oklahoma State (5-6, 3-5) tangle in Norman.

"I think the fact of the matter is there will be some years, like this one, where we feel just great about where we are. And there will be other years where we'll say 'Gee, we wish we had one more game to play because we might be able to differentiate ourselves,'" Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said.

The Big 12 hasn't had a team compete in the national title game since Texas lost to Alabama following the 2009 season. TCU and Baylor each appear to have shots at ending that streak — partly be-



Tim Sharp/AP

Baylor quarterback Bryce Petty missed most of the second half of last week's 48-46 victory over Texas Tech.

cause they don't face the possibility of a rematch in a league title game.

The team ahead of the fifth-ranked Horned Frogs in last week's playoff rankings, Mississippi State, lost at Ole Miss and finished the regular season with two losses.

The team behind TCU, Ohio State, beat Michigan. The Buckeyes also lost star quarterback J.T. Barrett for the year with an ankle injury.

But TCU is almost in a no-win situation on Saturday by playing the struggling Cyclones instead of a fellow championship contender.

The Horned Frogs are expected to blow out Iowa State. But if they struggle like they did against Kansas a few weeks back, the committee might have a rea-

son to re-examine its résumé.

That's why Iowa State coach Paul Rhoads is preparing to face a team looking for all the style points it can earn.

"They don't want to leave any doubt in any member of the selection committee that they deserve to be in the top four," Rhoads said. "We've seen all the tape. There's no question they belong in the final four. But they'll be going out to leave no doubts in anybody's minds."

Baylor will benefit from the Mississippi State loss and the uncertainty with the Buckeyes' quarterback situation as well.

The Bears also beat TCU head to head — and a win over K-State would arguably be as impressive as anything Alabama, Oregon or Florida State could pull off this weekend.

Bowlsby said the league's round-robin schedule means that teams have to go through everyone in the league to win the championship — and he added that the NCAA doesn't allow 10-team leagues to play a title game anyway.

This year, that looks like a good thing for the league.

"We like playing everybody," Bowlsby said. "There may be years in the future where our teams carve each other up and our champion is going to have three losses in the league. At that point, it's going to be very difficult to access the playoff. So, I think we're always looking to gather as much information as we can and make decisions in light of modern circumstances. But there's going to be years when it's great, and there's going to be years when it isn't."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



DON JUAN MOORE/AP

Seminoles quarterback Jameis Winston, right, and his attorney David Cornwell arrive at Florida State's Materials Research building for his student code of conduct hearing on Tuesday in Tallahassee, Fla.

Normal Chaos

Seminoles keep on winning despite constant stream of off-field issues

By BRENT KALLESTAD
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Chaos has become the norm at Florida State.

There seems to be a constant stream of off-field issues swirling around the Seminoles, who just keep winning games and championships amid the turmoil.

This week is no different. Quarterback Jameis Winston has spent part of the week participating in a university hearing to determine if violated the student code of conduct. The undefeated Seminoles were dropped in the College Football Rankings despite winning their 28th straight game.

Through it all, the Seminoles are preparing to take on Georgia Tech (No. 11 in CFP) in Saturday's Atlantic Coast Conference title game in Charlotte, N.C.

"Our team keeps looking forward," Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher said. "We are achieving, getting better and doing things we have to do."

One thing Fisher did this week was move practice Tuesday to the evening which allowed Winston to participate after five hours at the closed-door student conduct code disciplinary hearing that continued on Wednesday, before ending Wednesday afternoon. The woman who said Winston sexually assaulted her in December 2012 also participated in the hearing, which was held to determine whether Winston violated any or all of four sections of the code of conduct — two for sexual misconduct and two for endangerment.

No decision was made after the hearing. Winston and the woman were asked to submit final recommendations to a hearing officer within the next week. Former Florida Supreme Court Justice Major Harding then has 10 school days to rule.

In addition to the hearing this week, the College Playoff committee dropped Florida State — the nation's only major college unbeaten

team — to No. 4 on Tuesday. That would set up a matchup with Alabama if the rankings remain intact after all the conference championships are settled this weekend. The Seminoles had already fallen behind Alabama in the weekly Top 25 poll announced Sunday.

Fisher questions how winning can be devalued regardless of style points or game control.

"We're turning into figure skaters," he said in reference to the new playoff selection process. "We're judging."

While there seems to be questions about Florida State's close victories, Fisher sees the wins as the reigning national champions passing every test they've faced.

The Seminoles were down 21-0 at Louisville and won 42-31, trailed North Carolina State 24-7 and won 56-41, got behind at Miami 16-0 and won 30-26. Archrival Florida took a 9-0 lead last week before the Seminoles prevailed 24-19. Then there were the home wins against Notre Dame and Boston College as time ran out.

"These guys have been able to battle through and achieve," Fisher said. "I want them to understand how tough they really are, how mentally tough they are. How they've been able to overcome a lot of those things. It's hard to go back-to-back seasons undefeated."

Their defeated Clemson, now ranked 19th, 23-17 with Winston watching from the sideline as he served a one-game suspension for an obscene outburst on campus. The defense and sophomore backup quarterback Sean Maguire got it done against the Tigers. Maguire passed for 304 yards and a touchdown in his first collegiate start.

Florida State has run roughshod over its ACC brethren the last three years. Since an early season three-game skid in 2011, Florida State has won 45 of 48 games, including 23 in a row in the ACC.

They'll need another one Saturday against the Yellow Jackets to get a shot at winning back-to-back national titles.

GT's Johnson doing it his way

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — After knocking off his biggest rival, Paul Johnson couldn't help himself.

"Not bad for a high-school offense," the Georgia Tech coach quipped to a reporter.

That's just the way P.J. rolls.

He relishes the role of underdog, the little guy defying the odds, which makes Saturday night's appearance in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game all the more satisfying.

He is confident to the point of arrogance, prickly at times, and sure doesn't mind sparring a bit with those who take issue with that triple-option offense.

"Why do I poke back after being poked at for 30 years?" he said, breaking into a sly grin and mockingly answering his own question. "I have no idea."

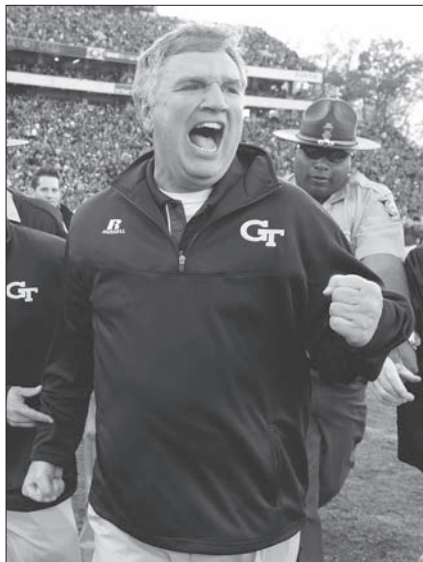
The No. 12 Yellow Jackets (10-2) will face defending national champion Florida State (12-0), a team that has gone more than two years without a loss.

Don't expect Johnson and his team to show the least bit of deference to the No. 2 Seminoles.

Johnson is defiant toward those who say his beloved offensive scheme is out of touch with the modern football world, who claim he'll never be able and a bunch of A-list recruits when he insists on using a system that doesn't translate to the NFL.

"People are going to say what they want to say. I have a whole body of work," Johnson said. "I've been a head coach for 18 years. Fourteen of those 18 years, my teams have won their division or their conference. If that's not good enough, I guess it's not good enough. I'll let someone else make that decision."

Johnson was honored Tuesday



DAVID TULLS/AP

Georgia Tech head coach Paul Johnson shouts and clenches his fist after beating Georgia 30-24 in overtime last Saturday in Athens, Ga.

as the ACC coach of the year, the third time he's received that honor in seven years at Georgia Tech.

Johnson, who has just two years left on his contract, made it clear that he's eager to stick with the Yellow Jackets for the long haul. He also knows that many top-level schools would not be inter-

ested in a coach who comes with own unique offense, no matter how much success he's had.

"I enjoy the players. I enjoy the school," he said. "It's been good here."

At 57, he's not about to change. It's the P.J. Way, take it or leave it.

AAC title could be divided 3 ways

By JOE KAY
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Memphis already has at least a share of the first football conference championship since 1971. The Tigers have to wait a few more days to see if they'll wind up all alone.

The American Athletic Conference could finish with a real pile-up at the top.

Central Florida can pull into a tie with Memphis by winning at East Carolina on Thursday. Then Cincinnati — the preseason pick to win it all — could make it a three-way split by beating Houston at Paul Brown Stadium on Saturday.

The 11-team league played its second season with an unbalanced schedule. There's no tiebreaker to decide an outright champion. The league will add Navy next season and divide into six-team divisions with a championship game.

"What a year this has been — a long year, looking back at the ups and downs," Cincinnati coach Tommy Tuberville said on Tuesday. "It's been an interesting year, one that I'll never forget, of all the different things that's happened."

Memphis (9-3, 7-1) provided the biggest surprise. The Tigers won at Cincinnati 41-14 on Oct. 4 to take control of the league race. They won their last six games — their longest winning streak since 1969

— for their first title since they were in the Missouri Valley Conference.

"To be able to be called champions feels so good," senior running back Brandon Hayes said. "I would never have guessed that we would end up like this."

It's definitely a great feeling and I can't wait to see where we get placed for this bowl game. The sky's the limit now."

UCF (8-3, 6-1) won the title last year and can share another with a win at East Carolina (8-3, 5-2) on Thursday night. The Knights are 14-1 in their two years of AAC play and beat Baylor in the Fiesta Bowl last season. They've never won back-to-back league titles.

"It would mean the world to me and these guys," linebacker Terrance Plummer said. "It's what our ultimate goal is every year and if we're able to achieve that, it will be very special to us. We'll be the first (UCF) team to win back-to-back conference championships."

East Carolina was the only AAC team to get ranked during the season, making it up to No. 18 in the AP poll during a six-week stay. The lack of ranked teams hurt the conference's national profile.

"I said that to our presidents and athletic directors at our fall meeting," Commissioner Mike Aresco said during a visit to Cincinnati last month. "It's a work in progress in football."

'It's been an interesting year, one that I'll never forget, of all the different things that's happened.'

Tommy Tuberville
Cincinnati coach, on an up-and-down season in the 11-team American Athletic Conference

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Ducks out to avenge only loss vs. Arizona

No. 3 Oregon eager to make up for early October upset

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

It's a rematch.

Although Oregon always preaches looking ahead to the next "nameless, faceless opponent," even Ducks coach Mark Helfrich says playing the in the Pac-12 championship on Friday against Arizona has more significance.

That's because Oregon's lone loss this season came against the Wildcats back on Oct. 2 at Autzen Stadium.

The No. 3 Ducks were already buzzing about No. 8 Arizona just minutes after their Civil War victory over rival Oregon State on Saturday night.

"We talked a little bit about preparing to give somebody our best shot. I would have said it about whoever was next," Helfrich said about his postgame message to the Ducks. "But certainly our guys know the 'coulda, woulda, shoulda' of some of that night."

Arizona (10-2, 7-2) clinched a spot in the league championship game this past Friday, when UCLA fell to Stanford and the Wildcats defeated Arizona State 42-35.

The Ducks (11-1, 8-1), who had earlier claimed the Pac-12 North, capped their regular season with the 47-19 victory over the Beavers in the 118th Civil War game.

The win held Oregon at No. 3 in the AP Top 25 on Sunday. The Ducks are ranked No. 2 in the College Football Playoff rankings behind Alabama, meaning that if they can beat Arizona they'll all but assured to be one of the four teams to make the cut for the first playoff.

Arizona jumped four spots to No. 8 in the latest AP poll for the team's highest ranking since 1999. The Wildcats are at No. 7 in the CFP rankings.

"The preparation is the same and that will be my message to the team today," Arizona coach Rich Rodriguez said Sunday.

"We talk about keeping the main thing the same, which is just getting ready to work every day, practice the way we practice, focus on your opponent and don't worry about things you can't control."

Back in October, freshman Nick Wilson ran for two touchdowns and caught a scoring pass from quarterback Anu Solomon in a 31-24 victory over the then-No. 2 Ducks.

Terris Jones-Grigsby plowed into the end zone from a yard out for the tiebreaking touchdown with 2:54 left, and Arizona held on after sacking Heisman hopeful Marcus Mariota and recovering his fumble.

In 2013, the Wildcats intercepted Mariota's pass on his first play from scrimmage, ending his Pac-12 record streak of 353 passes without a pick, and went on to rout then No. 5 Oregon 42-16 in Tucson. It was the Ducks' first loss to an unranked team since 2009.

Mariota, who had six touchdowns — four via pass and two keepers — in the Civil War victory over the Beavers, was staying on script for the Pac-12 championship. He said the Ducks would "continue to approach it like any other game."

"We're just going to play our game. Arizona did a great job setting and dictating tempo in the last meeting," he added. "If we go out and execute to the best of our abilities and execute the game plans that are put in front of us, we should hopefully be successful."

But Oregon wide receiver Byron Marshall wasn't shy about addressing what the rematch really means to the Ducks.

"Just to know that you lost to somebody, it just sits there and sits there," Marshall said. "You miss on, but you never forget. Now we have a time to right our wrong."



STEVE DYKES/AP

Arizona quarterback Anu Solomon, left, hugs Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota after their Oct. 2 game in Eugene, Ore. Arizona won, 31-24, the only blemish on the No. 3 Ducks' season and Mariota's bid for the Heisman Trophy.

Wildcats have history of thwarting Ducks' Mariota

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

For Arizona, it hasn't been a matter of stopping Marcus Mariota, just throwing him a bit off-kilter.

The Wildcats have defeated the Ducks in each of the last two seasons and coach Rich Rodriguez said that's because Arizona has been able to slow Oregon's star quarterback with three things: turnovers, effort and luck.

"If you look back at his stats, he got a lot of yards and big plays, but we got a couple turnovers. Some of it was great individual effort and some of it was a little bit of luck," Rodriguez said. "If you go back to this game or even the game last season, he still got his yards, and he is still going to get his yards and make his plays."

It appears all but certain at this point that Mariota will be among the Heisman Trophy finalists when they are announced on Dec. 8. But first the No. 3 Ducks (11-1, 8-1) must play the No. 8 Wildcats (10-2, 7-2) in the Pac-12 championship game on Friday night.

The mobile junior from Hawaii has thrown for at least one touchdown in each of the first 38 games he's played in at Oregon, an FBS-level record. He's only lost four games as Oregon's starter, but two of those came against Arizona.

He set a Pac-12 record this season with 48 total touchdowns, including 36 via pass, 11 keepers and one TD reception. He leads the nation with nine games of four or more touchdowns this season. His 36 touchdown passes are also an Oregon record.

Overall, Mariota has completed 229 of 334 passes for 3,470 yards and just



No. 8 Arizona (10-2, 7-2)
vs. No. 3 Oregon (11-1, 8-1)

AFN-Sports
3 a.m. Saturday CET
11 a.m. Saturday JKT

two interceptions, and he's the Ducks' second-leading rusher with 636 yards. "I think Marcus has been one of the best quarterbacks in the country since he made his first start," Rodriguez said.

Arizona has been one of the schools to get to him. The Wildcats have intercepted him three times and forced him to fumble three times over the past three seasons.

Earlier this season, Mariota passed for 276 yards and a pair of touchdowns in a 31-24 home loss to Arizona. The Wildcats' victory had more to do with their ability to stop Oregon's rush than anything, but Scooby Wright sacked Mariota and stripped him of the ball for a turnover with 2:11 to play. It was Oregon's final drive of the game.

"It was a good play by him," Mariota said at the time. "They ran some coverage that we weren't really expecting, and I was just trying to make the play. My instincts always lead the ball to go low, and he kind of just ripped it away."

Arizona routed the Ducks 42-16 last year in Tucson. Mariota threw for 308 yards and two touchdowns, but also had two interceptions.

His first came on Oregon's first play from scrimmage, when Bralon Addison dropped a pass near the sideline. Arizona cornerback Shaquille Richardson snared the carom and flipped it back to Wright as he was falling out of bounds. Ka'Deem Carey followed with a 6-yard touchdown run to kick start the upset. Afterward Mariota said: "It hurts. I haven't been blown out like this in my life."

In Mariota's first year — and Chip Kelly's last with the Ducks — Oregon blanked Arizona 49-0 at Autzen. Then a redshirt freshman, Mariota threw for 260 yards and two touchdowns, but he was intercepted once.

The Wildcats earned a spot in the league championship game last Friday when UCLA fell to Stanford and Arizona defeated rival Arizona State 42-35.

The Ducks closed out the regular season with a 47-19 victory over Oregon State. Oregon, while at No. 3 in the AP rankings, was No. 2 in the College Football Playoff rankings.

Should the Ducks defeat Arizona, they'll assuredly be one of the four teams included in the first playoffs.

Mariota is going to treat it like any other game.

"We're just going to play our game. Arizona did a great job setting and dictating tempo in the last meeting," he said. "If we go out and execute to the best of our abilities and execute the game plans that are put in front of us, we should hopefully be successful."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Alabama quarterback Blake Sims, right, runs into the end zone for a touchdown against Auburn defensive back Jonathan Jones during the second half of Saturday's game in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Alabama in a shootout? No problem these days

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The final score was more Oregon or Baylor than Alabama.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide showed it can keep pace in a point-a-minute shootout with a 55-44 victory over Auburn that seemed so out of character from the typical 'Bama powerhouses built on running and defense.

Alabama (11-1) hasn't abandoned that formula so much as expanded on it heading into Saturday's Southeastern Conference championship game against No. 14 Missouri. Now, opponents have to prepare for some no-huddle, a heavy dose of receiver Amari Cooper and maybe even a shootout.

"I think it's scary for them," Tide safety Nick Perry said. "Usually 'Bama beats you with defense and running the ball. Now, we can play a whole different type of game. We can put up points or we can shut them down with defense. I think that's scary for other teams."

Sure, the high-scoring game was a rarity for coach Nick Saban's team, which did outscore Texas A&M 49-42 last season. It was the highest in combined points for an Alabama game since a 110-9 win over Marion Institute in 1922.

"The way we're headed in college football, there's going to be games like this, and you're going to have to be able to win games like this," Saban said.

Sometimes joining them makes it easier to beat them. That was the case in the Iron Bowl, when Alabama's defense, which came in as the league's top unit,



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Alabama wide receiver Amari Cooper, right, has benefitted from a more up-tempo offense under first-year coordinator Lane Kiffin.

couldn't contain Auburn's no-huddle attack.

The reverse was true, also, when the Tide upped the tempo.

Not a sentence uttered very often: Alabama gave up 630 yards and won.

Alabama has opened things up some under first-year offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin, a finalist for the Broyles Award given to the nation's top assistant coach.

Quarterback Blake Sims has passed for 2,988 yards. Cooper has demolished school records with 103 catches for 1,373 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Saban said Alabama started adopting the "fastball" style at times because Sims thrived when the Tide went no-huddle.

He was even urging Kiffin to throw downfield more in the first half against Auburn. Kiffin listened.

Cooper had touchdown catches of 39 and 75 yards in the third quarter. The Heisman Trophy candidate has been the primary beneficiary among Kiffin's playmakers, but fellow receiver DeAndrew White is enjoying being along for the ride in this offense, too.

Missouri winning minus wow factor

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — At the halfway point, Missouri's season was on the verge of ruin.

Losing to lightly regarded Indiana at home was one thing. Just one of those stinkers to be shrugged off.

Getting smoked 34-0 by Georgia two weeks later while the student body retreated back to the dorms was the true turning point. The Tigers were 4-2 after the loss, seemingly on the way to justifying preseason predictions that the defending SEC Eastern Division champions had nothing for an encore.

Emotions in the locker room were raw.

"It was tough. It was rough," quarterback Maty Mauk said. "Personally, I'd never been shut out in my life and I know a lot of other people hadn't, either. How we bounced back, that's how you want it to be."

Coach Gary Pinkel let players know he believed in them, but also put his foot down hard. Committing five turnovers had him really riled.

"I didn't flip out on them," Pinkel said. "I said, 'Everybody's frustrated, disappointed. But we have a chance to do something about it.'" He added: "I think we can be really good still."

There has been no real wow factor about Missouri this season. But there has been no looking back since that game, either. The key drive, the critical stop, the game-changing takeaways — it's all been there just enough to keep the program rolling.



SEC championship
Missouri vs. Alabama
AFN-Sports
10 p.m. Saturday CET
6 a.m. Sunday JKT

The Tigers' finest quality, perhaps, is perseverance.

Missouri (10-2) is ranked 14th and touts a six-game winning streak into Saturday's conference title game against top-ranked Alabama (11-1) in Atlanta. Last week's comeback from an 11-point halftime deficit to beat Arkansas and repeat as top dog in the East was the latest, hard-earned triumph typical of the second half of the season.

They're far from the high-scoring outfit to which the Tigers have become accustomed, topping 40 points just once and leaning on a defense that could be Pinkel's best in 14 seasons. They began their current six-game winning streak with a 42-13 victory at Florida but the last five have been decided by 10 or fewer points.

They led Vanderbilt by three points late in the fourth quarter before Bud Sasser's 25-yard touchdown catch, trailed Texas A&M by a touchdown in the third quarter before charging ahead on two touchdown runs by Russell Hansbrough, and pulled ahead to stay after halftime at Tennessee.



L.G. PATTERSON/AP

Missouri running back Marcus Murphy, right, drags Arkansas' Rohan Gaines into the end zone as he scores the winning touchdown during the fourth quarter on Nov. 28 in Columbia, Mo.

SPORTS



Sixers ~~lose~~ WIN?!?!

Philadelphia knocks off Minnesota for first victory of season | **Page 26**



Through it all

Constant chaos the norm for Winston, Seminoles

Defending champs tune out distractions to focus on No. 12 Georgia Tech | **Page 29**

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